R 116 JUNE, 1928

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

RURAL POPULATION OF NEW YORK, 1855 TO 1925

BRUCE L. MELVIN

In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTIT
No.
27 JUN 1929
COIMBATORE

No. 11276
28 NOV 1934

ITHACA, NEW YORK
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY
Received for publication November 1, 1927

CONTENTS

PAGE

Part I. Rural population of New York from 1855 to 1920 9
Introduction 9
Classification of population 9
Sources and methods of obtaining data 9
Types of counties 10
Physical and agricultural conditions 12
Physiographic conditions 12
Climate 14
Soils 14
Agricultural production 14
Number of farms 15
Location of cities 16
Trends of total, city, and town population 16
Total-population trend 16
New York State 16
Sections 16
Trend of city population 18
New York State 18
Sections 18
Analysis of the city growth 19
Trends of large towns, 5000 to 9999 20
Trends of small towns, 2500 to 4999 24
Rural population 25
New York State 25
Sections 27
Farm population 32
Percentage of total and rural population in farm population 32
Trend 33
New York State 33
Sections 33
Density of farm population 36
Unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village population 38
Percentage of total and rural population 38
Trend 39
New York State 39
Sections 39
Conditions determining population in this class 40
The incorporated village 41
Percentage of total and rural population 41
Trend in number and population 44
New York State 44
Sections 44
Trend for different classes of villages 50
Large villages, 1000 to 2499 50
New York State 50
Sections 54
Major villages, 500 to 999 54
New York State 54
Sections 54
Minor villages, 250 to 499 55
New York State 55
Sections 55

Part I. Rural population of New York from 1855 to 1920 (*continued*) PAGE
Analysis of village growth 56
The actual increase in number of villages 56
Loss of village population through growth 60
Shifting between classes 62
The actual growth in village population by decades 65
New York State 65
Sections 67
Incorporation of villages 72
Villages becoming unincorporated 73
Unincorporated towns and villages 74
New York State 74
Sections 74
Incorporated and unincorporated villages 77
Numbers 77
New York State 77
Sections 77
Population 80
New York State 80
Sections 80
Density and increase in number of villages 83
Density and distribution 83
Increase in number of villages 90
Distribution of rural population 92
Rural population 92
Farm population 92
Unincorporated towns and villages 94
Incorporated villages 95
Non-farming-non-village population 95
Different meanings of " rural " 95
Part II. Rural population of New York from 1920 to 1925 96
Trends in classes of population 96
Total population 97
Distribution 97
Gain in classes 100
Analysis of growth in classes of population 101
Cities, 10,000 and above 101
Large towns, 5000 to 9999 101
Small towns, 2500 to 4999 102
Rural population 102
Shifting of counties between groups 102
Trends in classes of rural population 103
Density of rural population 103
Gain in classes of rural population 104
Analysis of growth in classes of rural population 109
Unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village population 109
Farm population 109
Incorporated-village population 111
Gain and growth in classes of incorporated villages 114
Large villages, 1000 to 2499 114
Major villages, 500 to 999 114
Minor villages, 250 to 499 114
Number of villages that gained or lost 114
Summary and conclusions 118
Period from 1855 to 1920 118
Period from 1920 to 1925 121

TABLES

PAGE

Table 1. New York State, total population, 1855 to 1920 21
Table 2. Urban counties, total population, 1855 to 1920 22
Table 3. Farming counties, total population, 1855 to 1920 22
Table 4. Suburban counties, total population, 1855 to 1920 23
Table 5. Mountain counties, total population, 1855 to 1920 23
Table 6. New York State, rural population and its various classes, 1855 to 1920 26
Table 7. Urban counties, rural population and its various classes, 1855 to 1920 28
Table 8. Farming counties, rural population and its various classes, 1855 to 1920 28
Table 9. Suburban counties, rural population and its various classes, 1855 to 1920 29
Table 10. Mountain counties, rural population and its various classes, 1855 to 1920 29
Table 11. New York State and various sections, average yearly increase and decrease in farm population for the different decades 33
Table 12. New York State, number and population of incorporated villages by classes and percentage of total village population in each class 42
Table 13. New York State, percentage change in population and in number of incorporated villages for each intercensus period 44
Table 14. Urban counties, number and population of incorporated villages by classes and percentage of total village population in each class 46
Table 15. Farming counties, number and population of incorporated villages by classes and percentage of total village population in each class 46
Table 16. Suburban counties, number and population of incorporated villages by classes and percentage of total village population in each class 47
Table 17. Mountain counties, number and population of incorporated villages by classes and percentage of total village population in each class 47
Table 18. Percentage change in village population by sections for each decade 50
Table 19. Percentage increase and decrease of population for the large villages, 1000 to 2499, by decades for the State and for the sections 50
Table 20. New York State, number of villages that entered various classes, and method of entrance, by decades 57
Table 21. Urban counties, number of villages that entered various classes, and method of entrance, by decades 58
Table 22. Farming counties, number of villages that entered various classes, and method of entrance, by decades 58
Table 23. Suburban counties, number of villages that entered various classes, and method of entrance, by decades 59
Table 24. Mountain counties, number of villages that entered various classes, and method of entrance, by decades 59
Table 25. New York State and various sections, loss of village population for each decade by villages growing and becoming towns 60
Table 26. New York State, population entering each class of villages for each decade, and method of entrance 61
Table 27. Urban counties, population entering each class of villages for each decade, and method of entrance 61
Table 28. Farming counties, population entering each class of villages for each decade, and method of entrance 63
Table 29. Suburban counties, population entering each class of villages for each decade, and method of entrance 64
Table 30. Mountain counties, population entering each class of villages for each decade, and method of entrance 64
Table 31. New York State, increase by incorporation and growth for different classes of villages, without reference to the places having passed into another class. 66
Table 32. Urban counties, increase by incorporation and growth for different classes of villages, without reference to the places having passed into another class. 68
Table 33. Farming counties, increase by incorporation and growth for different classes of villages, without reference to the places having passed into another class. 69

PAGE

Table 34. Suburban counties, increase by incorporation and growth for different classes of villages, without reference to the places having passed into another class. 70
Table 35. Mountain counties, increase by incorporation and growth for different classes of villages, without reference to the places having passed into another class. 71
Table 36. New York State and various sections, number and population of the unincorporated towns and villages, with percentages of the total in both numbers and population, by classes, for 1920 75
Table 37. New York State, distribution in numbers of incorporated and unincorporated villages of various sizes, 1920 77
Table 38. Urban counties, distribution in numbers of incorporated and unincorporated villages of various sizes, 1920 79
Table 39. Farming counties, distribution in numbers of incorporated and unincorporated villages of various sizes, 1920 79
Table 40. Suburban counties, distribution in numbers of incorporated and unincorporated villages of various sizes, 1920 79
Table 41. Mountain counties, distribution in numbers of incorporated and unincorporated villages of various sizes, 1920 79
Table 42. Number of square miles per village, for each county, 1920 89
Table 43. Number of towns and villages, both incorporated and unincorporated, which were not in existence in 1870 but were in 1920 91
Table 44. New York State, distribution of rural population in 1920, and percentages of total and of rural population that the various groups in the rural population constituted 93
Table 45. Urban counties, distribution of rural population in 1920, and percentages of total and of rural population that the various groups in the rural population constituted 93
Table 46. Farming counties, distribution of rural population in 1920, and percentages of total and of rural population that the various groups in the rural population constituted 93
Table 47. Suburban counties, distribution of rural population in 1920, and percentages of total and of rural population that the various groups in the rural population constituted 94
Table 48. Mountain counties, distribution of rural population in 1920, and percentages of total and of rural population that the various groups in the rural population constituted 94
Table 49. New York State, total population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925.. 98
Table 50. Urban counties, total population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925.. 98
Table 51. Farming counties, total population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925.. 98
Table 52. Suburban counties, total population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925. 99
Table 53. Mountain counties, total population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925. 99
Table 54. Percentage changes in population, by counties, 1910 to 1920 and 1920 to 1925. 100
Table 55. New York State, rural population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925.. 106
Table 56. Urban counties, rural population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925.. 106
Table 57. Farming counties, rural population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925. 106
Table 58. Suburban counties, rural population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925. 107
Table 59. Mountain counties, rural population, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925. 107
Table 60. Urban counties, farm population, 1920 and 1925 110
Table 61. Farming counties, farm population, 1920 and 1925 112
Table 62. Suburban counties, farm population, 1920 and 1925 113
Table 63. Mountain counties, farm population, 1920 and 1925 113
Table 64. New York State, incorporated villages, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925 115
Table 65. Urban counties, incorporated villages, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925 115
Table 66. Farming counties, incorporated villages, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925 115

PAGE

Table 67. Suburban counties, incorporated villages, gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925 116
Table 68. Mountain counties, incorporated villages. gain and growth by classes, 1920 to 1925 116
Table 69. New York State and sections, number of incorporated villages which grew in population from 1920 to 1925 and average percentage of growth, by classes 117
Table 70. New York State and sections, number of incorporated villages which lost population from 1920 to 1925 and average percentage of loss, by classes .. 117

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Types of counties in New York according to population, 1920 11
Figure 2. Physiographic provinces of New York 13
Figure 3. Principal soil series in New York 15
Figure 4. Number of farms in New York from 1855 to 1920, and percentage gain or loss for each successive census year 17
Figure 5. Percentage change in number of farms between 1880 and 1920 for each county 17
Figure 6. Number of farms per county, 1920 18
Figure 7. Location of cities in New York, 1920 19
Figure 8. New York State: Total rural population and its classes, 1855 to 1920, and percentage of the rural which each class constituted 25
Figure 9. Urban counties: Total rural population and its classes, 1855 to 1920, and percentage of the rural which each class constituted 27
Figure 10. Farming counties: Total rural population and its classes, 1855 to 1920, and percentage of the rural which each class constituted 30
Figure 11. Suburban counties: Total rural population and its classes, 1855 to 1920, and percentage of the rural which each class constituted 31
Figure 12. Mountain counties: Total rural population and its classes, 1855 to 1920, and percentage of the rural which each class constituted 31
Figure 13. Density of farm population by counties, 1855 34
Figure 14. Density of farm population by counties, 1880 35
Figure 15. Density of farm population by counties, 1900 36
Figure 16. Density of farm population by counties, 1920 37
Figure 17. New York State: Total population of incorporated villages, 1855 to 1920, population in classes of same and percentage of total which each class constituted, and population entering different classes by various methods. 43
Figure 18. Urban counties: Total population of incorporated villages, 1855 to 1920, population in classes of same and percentage of total which each class constituted, and population entering different classes by various methods. 45
Figure 19. Farming counties: Total population of incorporated villages, 1855 to 1920, population in classes of same and percentage of total which each class constituted, and population entering different classes by various methods. 48
Figure 20. Suburban counties: Total population of incorporated villages, 1855 to 1920, population in classes of same and percentage of total which each class constituted, and population entering different classes by various methods. 49
Figure 21. Mountain counties: Total population of incorporated villages, 1855 to 1920, population in classes of same and percentage of total which each class constituted, and population entering different classes by various methods. 49
Figure 22. New York State: Total number of incorporated villages, percentage of total which each class constituted, and number entering different classes by various methods 51
Figure 23. Urban counties: Total number of incorporated villages, percentage of total which each class constituted, and number entering different classes by various methods 52

PAGE

Figure 24. Farming counties: Total number of incorporated villages, percentage of total which each class constituted, and number entering different classes by various methods.......... 52
Figure 25. Suburban counties: Total number of incorporated villages, percentage of total which each class constituted, and number entering different classes by various methods.......... 53
Figure 26. Mountain counties: Total number of incorporated villages, percentage of total which each class constituted, and number entering different classes by various methods.......... 53
Figure 27. Distribution of the numbers of villages in New York according to size and incorporation, 1920.......... 78
Figure 28. New York State: Distribution of population in incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages of various sizes, 1920.......... 80
Figure 29. Urban counties: Distribution of population in incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages of various sizes, 1920.......... 81
Figure 30. Farming counties: Distribution of population in incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages of various sizes, 1920.......... 81
Figure 31. Suburban counties: Distribution of population in incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages of various sizes, 1920.......... 82
Figure 32. Mountain counties: Distribution of population in incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages of various sizes, 1920.......... 82
Figure 33. Density of villages in New York, 1920.......... 83
Figure 34. Cities, towns, and villages in New York, 1870..........84–85
Figure 35. Cities, towns, and villages in New York, 1920..........86–87
Figure 36. Density of rural population in New York, 1920.......... 96
Figure 37. Distribution of population of New York State including New York City, and of population in the county groups excluding New York City, 1925.. 97
Figure 38. Types of counties in New York according to population, 1925.......... 103
Figure 39. Percentage increase and decrease of rural population, by counties, between 1920 and 1925.......... 104
Figure 40. Density of rural population in New York, 1925.......... 105
Figure 41. Distribution of rural population in New York State and in the county groups, 1925.......... 108
Figure 42. Density of farm population in New York, 1925.......... 111

RURAL POPULATION OF NEW YORK, 1855 TO 1925

BRUCE L. MELVIN

This work presents a statistical study of the trend of rural population and its classes from 1855 to 1925; the village- and farm-population groups receive special emphasis, and a critical examination of the component parts of the rural population of 1920 is made. The work is divided into two parts: the first includes the years from 1855 to 1920, and the second compares 1925 with 1920. These divisions are thus made because the first part was practically completed before the 1925 population data became available, the unincorporated-village population estimates were obtained only on a basis of 1920, and a five-years period was not readily comparable with decades which are used in the first part.

PART I. RURAL POPULATION OF NEW YORK FROM 1855 TO 1920

INTRODUCTION

Classification of population

In this study the population is divided and subdivided into classes. The first general classification is as follows: cities, population 10,000 and above; large towns, 5000 to 9999; small towns, 2500 to 4999; and rural, including all persons living outside incorporated places of 2500 and above. The rural population is further divided and classified thus: incorporated villages (villages being places with a population below 2500); unincorporated villages; farm; and non-farming-non-village. The last subdivision, the non-farming-non-village, includes persons who live in hamlets (places below 50 in population); those who live in the country but do not farm, such as employees in towns and cities; inmates of charitable and correctional institutions found outside incorporated places; and suburban dwellers. Another subdivision is made of both the incorporated and the unincorporated villages. Large villages are those having a population of 1000 to 2499; major villages, 500 to 999; minor villages, 250 to 499; small villages, 50 to 249. All these classifications are arbitrary, but they furnish a basis on which to work.

Sources and methods of obtaining data

The data were gathered from different sources, the chief ones being the reports of the federal census for the decades between 1870 and 1920 and of New York State for 1855. The number of persons living in all incorporated places for the various census years was easily obtained from these volumes. For each county the rural population was ascertained by subtracting the combined population of all incorporated

places of 2500 and above, from the total. The farm population was estimated by multiplying the number of farms per county by the average population per farm for each census year. This population per farm for 1920 was 4.14, and for 1910 was 4.27, according to the United States Census monograph on farm population.[1] The estimated average population per farm for the State for 1900, 1890, and 1880 was 4.37, 4.45, and 4.5, respectively, these averages being calculated by practically the same methods as were used by the Census Bureau in making the estimate for 1910.[1] For the years 1870 and 1855, the averages for all families in the State, 4.88 and 5, respectively, were employed. The sizes of the unincorporated villages for 1920 were estimated by residents or by some one familiar with them. Though the numbers for the unincorporated towns and villages thus obtained cannot be absolutely accurate, the totals are near enough to enable the drawing of significant conclusions. The size of most of the unincorporated villages for 1870 was found in the federal census of that date, which made possible comparisons between 1920 and 1870. (See "Density and Increase in Number of Villages," pages 83 to 92.)

The unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village populations were kept together in the analyses of the trends for all the years, as it was impossible to separate the two groups. This total unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village population was determined for each county for each year by subtracting the total incorporated-village and farm population from the total rural population of each county. For the year 1920, when these two, the unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village populations, were separated for purposes of analysis, the latter was ascertained by subtracting the former from the total of the two for each group of counties.

Types of counties

For comparative purposes the counties of the State outside New York City are grouped according to certain characteristics, using the classes of population of 1920, and are designated as *urban, farming, suburban,* and *mountain* (figure 1). The data for the various types of counties are handled in this way on the assumption that urban, farming, and mountainous environments create conditions which exert special influence on population changes. The *urban* counties are those in which more than 50 per cent of the population is found in cities of 10,000 and above.

---

[1] Farm population of the United States, 1920. Census monographs, VI, page 43. The total farm population for New York for 1920, according to this census report, was 800,747; that outside urban territory which included places of 2500 and above, was 782,954. The writer's own estimate for the State outside New York City for 1920 is 796,516. This estimate as it is considered in relationship to the village population lends itself to a slight inaccuracy, since all farms are assumed to be outside incorporated places. Though it was impossible to separate the farm population within the incorporated territory from that without for any of the census years, the writer regards the information here sufficiently accurate to show its trends and relationships to other classes of population.

The *farming* counties are those in which less than 50 per cent of the population is found in cities and in which the farm population is larger than any other group. The *suburban* counties are those in which the largest percentage of population is found in small cities, towns, and villages. The *mountain* counties contain both a village and a farm population, but with sparse distribution.[2]

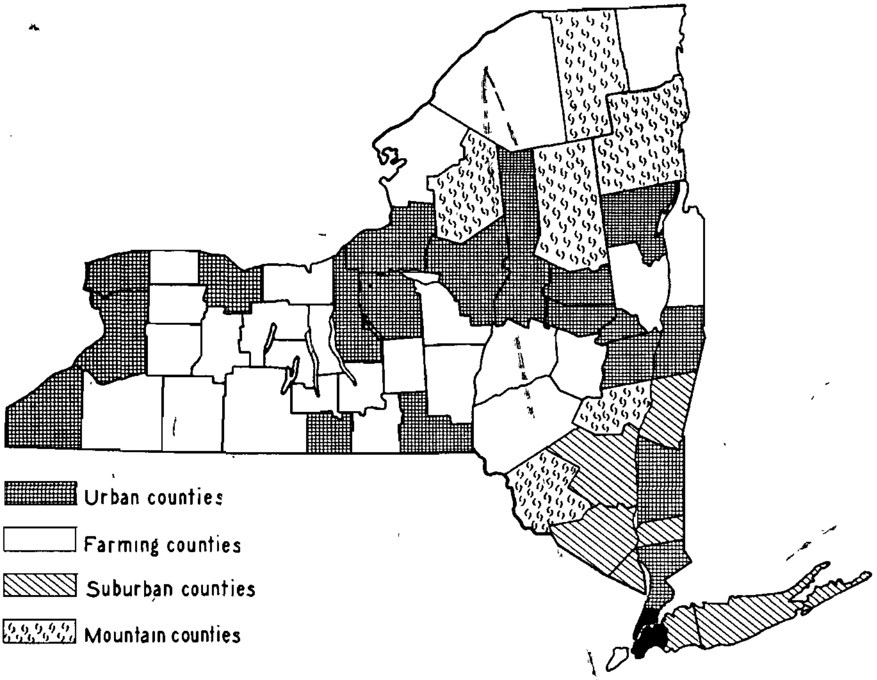


FIGURE 1. TYPES OF COUNTIES IN NEW YORK ACCORDING TO POPULATION, 1920

The counties belonging in the various groups are as follows: *Urban*: Albany, Broome, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Dutchess, Erie, Fulton, Herkimer, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Warren, and Westchester. *Farming*: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chenango, Clinton, Cortland, Delaware, Genesee, Jefferson, Livingston, Madison, Ontario, Orleans, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins,

[2] In this study the word *section* is frequently used to refer to these various groupings. Sometimes the term *county grouping* or *division* is employed, to avoid monotony. It is recognized that the influence of the cities in many counties during the earlier years of the study was not comparable with the influence of later years, but it is impossible to evaluate this influence for all the years. It was necessary to assume that the cities exerted an equal influence prior to 1920 to that exerted at that time, which was not true.

Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. *Suburban*: Columbia, Nassau,[3] Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Ulster. *Mountain*: Essex, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lewis, and Sullivan.

The assumption that cities were predominant in all the urban counties prior to 1920, as at that date, is somewhat erroneous, since prior to 1920 the cities did not contain more than 50 per cent of the population in many counties. This factor, however, may account, in some cases, for similar tendencies in the farming and urban counties before 1920. However, the data on the changes from 1920 to 1925 justify the classification.

Physical and agricultural conditions

Location of population in cities, in towns, in villages, and on farms is dependent on routes and methods of transportation and travel, and types of farming. Physiographic features largely condition the first of these, while climate, marketing conditions, and soils are additional elements in determining the types of farming. The outstanding characteristic of all these aspects is diversity, which the following brief descriptions show.

Physiographic conditions

The physiographic features of New York are extremely varied. It contains mountains and plains, rivers and lakes, and rocky and deep black soil. Between the extremes in any of these respects are all degrees of variation (figure 2).[4] The following quotations are taken from *The Geological History of New York State,* by William J. Miller.[5] The references are on pages 15 to 25.

"The Adirondack mountain province comprises fully one-fourth the area of the State," and is "typically mountainous and heavily wooded."

The Southwestern Plateau province occupies nearly one-third of the area of the State and stretches across the southern part, being "well trenched or dissected by streams" but "not a mountainous country" and constituting the greatest proportion of the agricultural area of the State.

The Catskill Mountain province lies in the southwestern part of the State west of the Hudson, and, as its name indicates, is almost entirely mountainous.

"The Mohawk valley province, though comparatively small, is of great importance because it so clearly separates the Adirondack highlands on the north from the highlands of the Catskills and southwestern plateau provinces on the south. In fact it should be noted that the

[3] Although Nassau was not organized as a county until 1898, the townships which formed it were handled as a suburban county throughout all the years included in the study.

[4] The physical geography of New York State. By Ralph S. Tarr. 1902.

[5] The geological history of New York State. By William J. Miller. New York State Museum. Museum bul. 168. 1914.

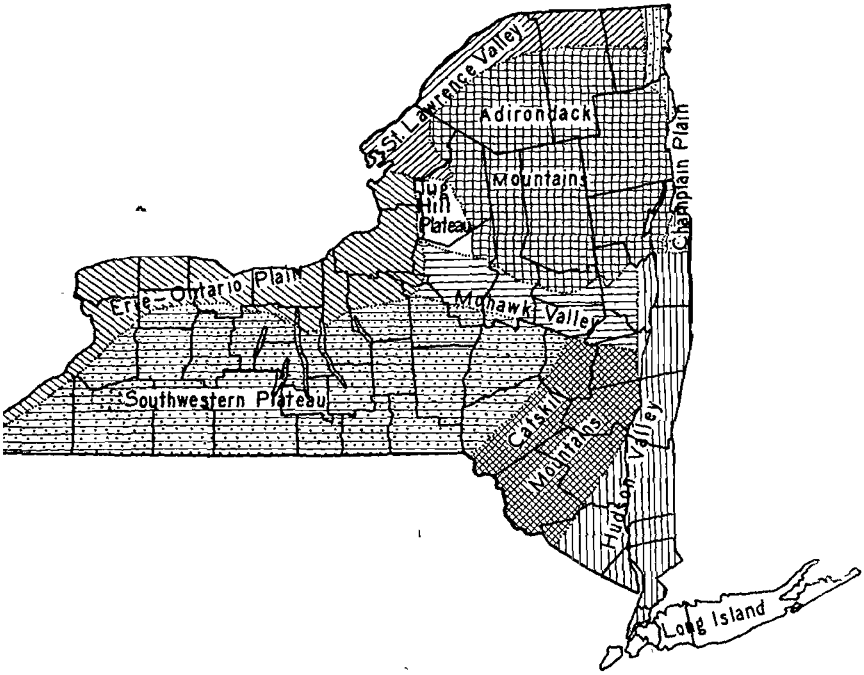


FIGURE 2. PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCES OF NEW YORK

(From *The Geological History of New York State,* by William J. Miller. New York State Museum. Museum bul. 168. 1914)

Mohawk valley is by far the lowest passageway across the mountains between the St. Lawrence river and the southern end of the Appalachian range. This low pass is one of the great eastern 'gateways' which, with the St. Lawrence, have afforded the easiest means of communication between the Atlantic seaboard and the region west of the Appalachian mountains.

"The comparatively narrow inner valley through which the river now flows is often erroneously called the Mohawk valley, but in reality the whole depression, from 10 to 30 miles wide and fully 1000 feet deep, between the northern and southern highlands of the State, should be called the Mohawk valley."

"On the extreme western side of the State, and lying between Lake Erie and the Southwestern plateau, there is a strip of land only a few miles wide which may be called the Erie plain." "The Ontario plain is much larger and lies between Lake Ontario and the Southwestern plateau. . . . This large province slopes gradually to the shores of Lake

Ontario and is remarkably free from relief features of any considerable magnitude."

The Tug Hill province lies east of the northeastern part of the Erie-Ontario province.

Miller includes three other geological provinces in the State, but attention needs only to be called to them. They are composed of the valleys of the St. Lawrence River, the Hudson River, and Lake Champlain.

Climate

"New York State has a diversity of climate not usually encountered within an equally restricted area. In some respects nearly every locality has a climate of its own. This is due primarily to the varied topography of the State, and to its position between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean."[6] In fact, there are ten climatic divisions or regions in the State which correspond very closely with the topographical areas.

Soils

The types of soil material are variable, being of glacial origin and ranging from shale and sandstone to granite and limestone. The quality of the soil, which depends largely upon the amount of lime it contains, varies from highly productive to that which is practically valueless, depending largely upon topography.[7] Muck land is likewise found in certain sections of the State, and at present much of this is in process of reclamation.[8]

Agricultural production

By virtue of the variability of climate, topography, soil, and the markets which the many cities afford, an exceedingly diversified type of agriculture has arisen. The southern plateau is predominantly a dairy region producing fluid milk for the New York City market, and much dairy farming is carried on in the areas bordering the Adirondacks. Poultry products have been increasing recently and are becoming a very important element in the State's agricultural ouput; this line of production is not confined to any one section. The fruit regions, which afford a specialized type of farming, are located along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, near two of the Finger Lakes, Seneca and Cayuga, and along the Hudson River. Besides these, vegetable farming on the muck lands is becoming of great significance. In fact, this represents a specialized type of agriculture which is having a marked influence on the distribution of rural population. These muck farming areas are found interspersed in the fruit and dairy regions. Besides

---

[6] The climate of New York State, p. 7. By R. A. Mordoff. Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 444. 1925.

[7] This is seen on comparing figures 2 and 3.

[8] Soil and field-crop management for Wayne County, New York. By H. O. Buckman, F. B. Howe, and H. P. Cooper. New York State Coll. Agr. Ext. bul. 161. 1927.

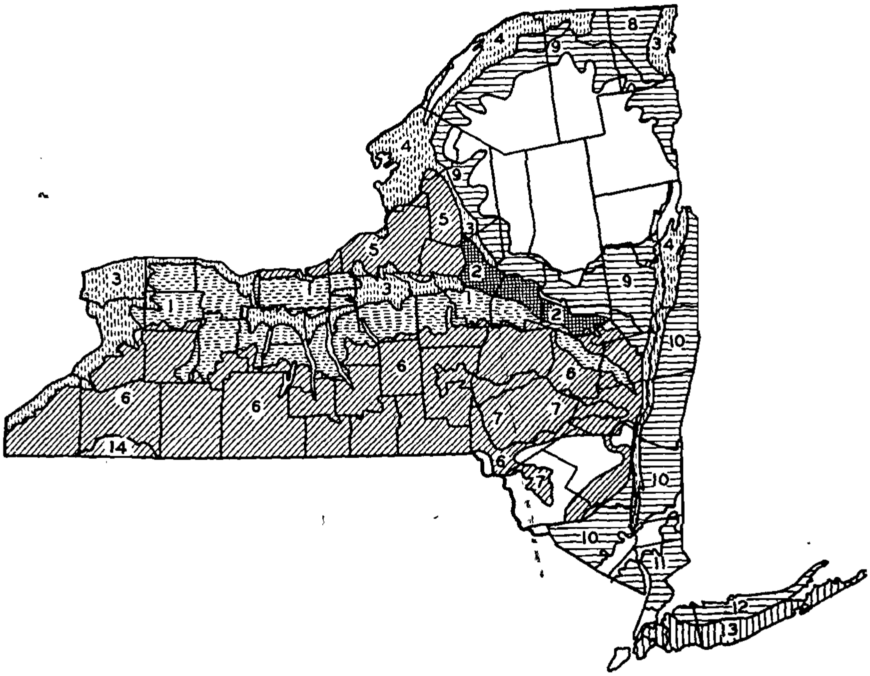


FIGURE 3. PRINCIPAL SOIL SERIES IN NEW YORK

Soils medium to high in lime	Soils low to medium in lime	Soils low in lime
1, Ontario	5, Worth	8, Coloma
2, Mohawk	6, Volusia, Canfield, Lordstown, and Wooster	9, Gloucester and Merrimac
3, Dunkirk	7, Lackawanna	11, Gloucester
4, Vergennes	10, Dutchess	12, Plymouth
	14, De Kalb	13, Sassafras

This figure is a generalization prepared by Dr. H. O. Buckman, of the Department of Agronomy, New York State College of Agriculture, from a detailed soil map drawn by F. B. Howe, of the same department, and is used by their courtesy

these particular lines of agriculture, general farming is very important, being intermingled with the other types of farming but dominating in the central western part of the State.

The influence on agriculture which ready-market cities afford is not discussed here, since explanations of population shifting often depend upon this factor and are specifically pointed out or inferred.

Number of farms

The number of farms reached the highest point in 1880, dropped 6.2 per cent from 1880 to 1890, and gained slightly by 1900; but during

Ontario and is remarkably free from relief features of any considerable magnitude."

The Tug Hill province lies east of the northeastern part of the Erie-Ontario province.

Miller includes three other geological provinces in the State, but attention needs only to be called to them. They are composed of the valleys of the St. Lawrence River, the Hudson River, and Lake Champlain.

Climate

"New York State has a diversity of climate not usually encountered within an equally restricted area. In some respects nearly every locality has a climate of its own. This is due primarily to the varied topography of the State, and to its position between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean."[6] In fact, there are ten climatic divisions or regions in the State which correspond very closely with the topographical areas.

Soils

The types of soil material are variable, being of glacial origin and ranging from shale and sandstone to granite and limestone. The quality of the soil, which depends largely upon the amount of lime it contains, varies from highly productive to that which is practically valueless, depending largely upon topography.[7] Muck land is likewise found in certain sections of the State, and at present much of this is in process of reclamation.[8]

Agricultural production

By virtue of the variability of climate, topography, soil, and the markets which the many cities afford, an exceedingly diversified type of agriculture has arisen. The southern plateau is predominantly a dairy region producing fluid milk for the New York City market, and much dairy farming is carried on in the areas bordering the Adirondacks. Poultry products have been increasing recently and are becoming a very important element in the State's agricultural ouput; this line of production is not confined to any one section. The fruit regions, which afford a specialized type of farming, are located along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, near two of the Finger Lakes, Seneca and Cayuga, and along the Hudson River. Besides these, vegetable farming on the muck lands is becoming of great significance. In fact, this represents a specialized type of agriculture which is having a marked influence on the distribution of rural population. These muck farming areas are found interspersed in the fruit and dairy regions. Besides

[6] The climate of New York State, p. 7. By R. A. Mordoff. Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 444. 1925.

[7] This is seen on comparing figures 2 and 3.

[8] Soil and field-crop management for Wayne County, New York. By H. O. Buckman, F. B. Howe, and H. P. Cooper. New York State Coll. Agr. Ext. bul. 161. 1927.

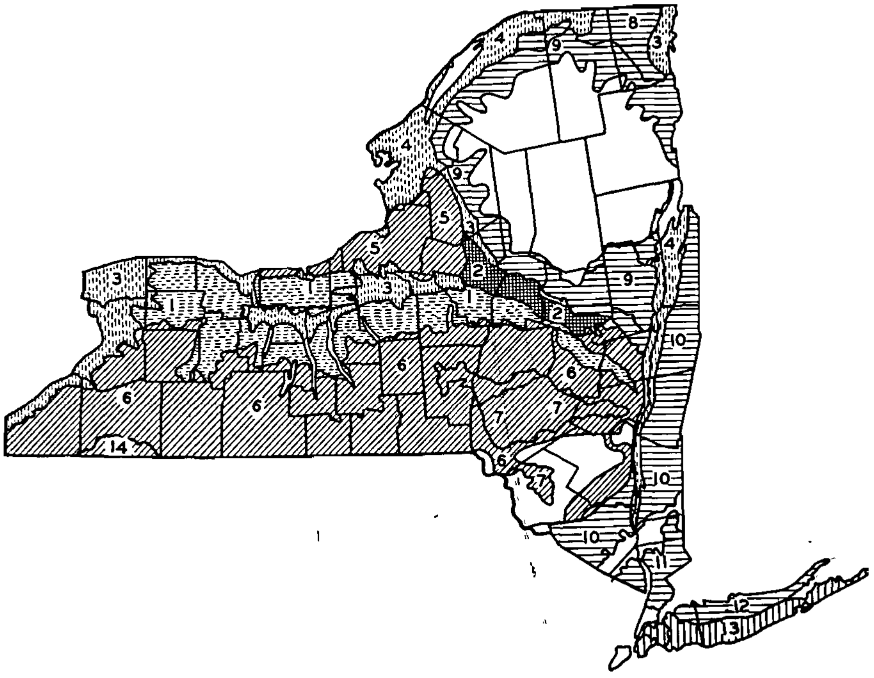


FIGURE 3. PRINCIPAL SOIL SERIES IN NEW YORK

Soils medium to high in lime	Soils low to medium in lime	Soils low in lime
1, Ontario	5, Worth	8, Coloma
2, Mohawk	6, Volusia, Canfield, Lordstown, and Wooster	9, Gloucester and Merrimac
3, Dunkirk	7, Lackawanna	11, Gloucester
4, Vergennes	10, Dutchess	12, Plymouth
	14, De Kalb	13, Sassafras

This figure is a generalization prepared by Dr. H. O. Buckman, of the Department of Agronomy, New York State College of Agriculture, from a detailed soil map drawn by F. B. Howe, of the same department, and is used by their courtesy

these particular lines of agriculture, general farming is very important, being intermingled with the other types of farming but dominating in the central western part of the State.

The influence on agriculture which ready-market cities afford is not discussed here, since explanations of population shifting often depend upon this factor and are specifically pointed out or inferred.

Number of farms

The number of farms reached the highest point in 1880, dropped 6.2 per cent from 1880 to 1890, and gained slightly by 1900; but during

the two following decades a great decline occurred — 4.9 per cent from 1900 to 1910, and 10.4 per cent from 1910 to 1920 (figures 4 and 5). Only one county, Chautauqua, had more farms in 1920 than in 1880.

Location of cities

The development of industry and the resultant growth of cities have been the great forces which influenced the rural-population trends between 1855 and 1920. The location of cities has been determined by geographic conditions and routes of transportation and travel (figures 1, 3, and 7). The counties in the State were placed in groups as mentioned above because of the particular distribution of the cities.

Trends of total, city, and town population

The trends of the total population for the State and the various county groupings, the trends for the city population for both the State and the sections, and the same for towns, are briefly examined at this point in order to furnish a comparative basis for the more detailed analyses of the rural population in the following divisions.

Total-population trend

New York State. The number of inhabitants of New York State increased steadily from 1855 until 1920 (table 1), and for each decade from 1870 until 1910 the rate of growth was accelerated, the lowest rate of increase of any period occurring between 1910 and 1920. The fifteen years between 1855 and 1870 had a large increase, apparently due more to the change prior to 1860 than to that between 1860 and 1870.

Sections. The increase in population was sectional rather than general, the greatest gains being in the urban and the suburban counties. The number living in these two sections steadily became greater with somewhat varying rates (tables 2 and 4), while in the farming counties the population gained and lost at different periods, reaching the highest peak in 1910 and the second highest in 1880 (table 3).

The population in the mountain counties grew steadily from 1855 to 1910, but declined between 1910 and 1920 (table 5).

The rate of increase for each decade after 1870 in the urban counties was always high, varying from 10.7 per cent from 1870 to 1880, to 20.2 per cent from 1900 to 1910. The percentage increase was much smaller between 1910 and 1920 than during the preceding decade, as was true for the total population of the State. The total population of the farming counties rose and fell somewhat after 1880, losing slightly between 1880 and 1890, gaining a little in each of the two following decades, and losing again between 1910 and 1920. The rate of increase for the various decades in the suburban counties

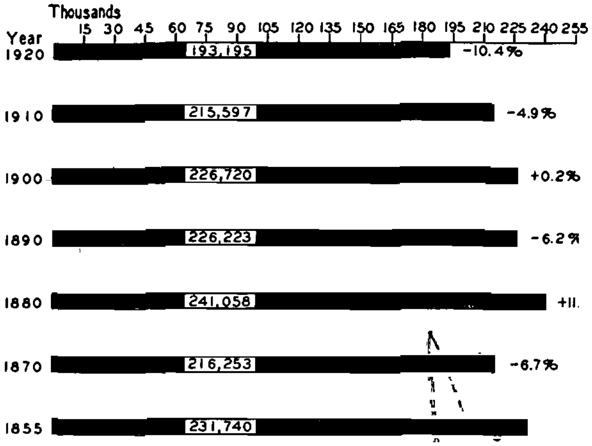


FIGURE 4. NUMBER OF FARMS IN NEW YORK FROM 1855 TO 1920, PERCENTAGE GAIN OR LOSS FOR EACH SUCCESSIVE CENSUS YE.

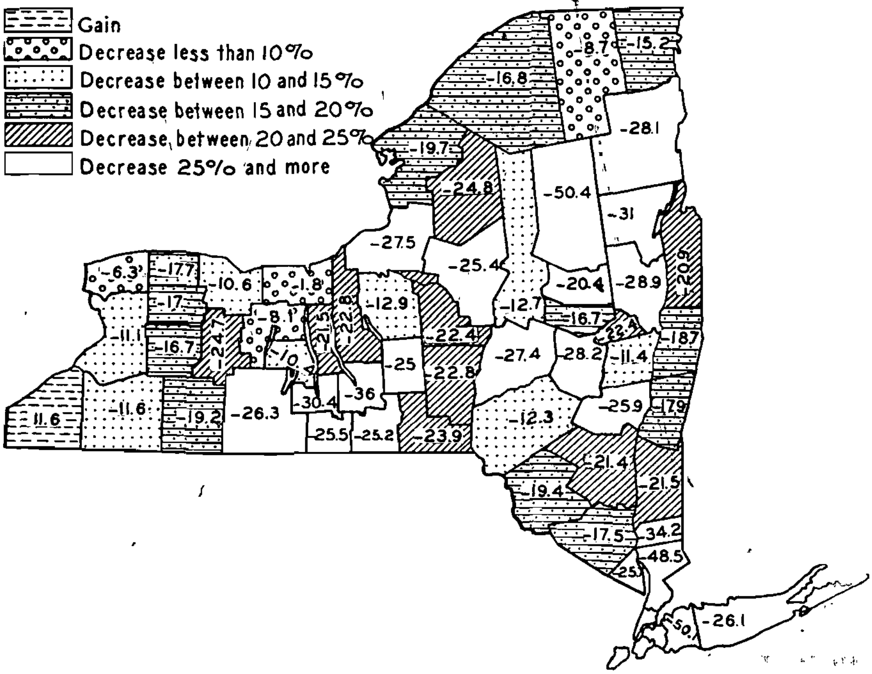


FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FARMS BETWEEN 1880 AND 1920 FOR EACH COUNTY

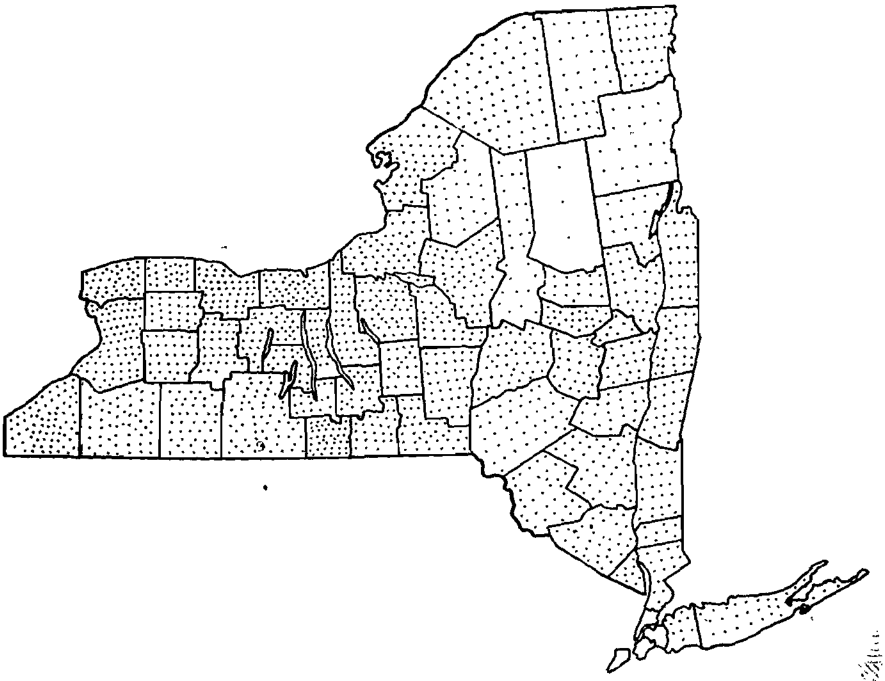


FIGURE 6. NUMBER OF FARMS PER COUNTY, 1920
Each dot represents 100 farms

fluctuated greatly, varying from 6.8 per cent between 1910 and 1920, to 17.2 between 1900 and 1910. The growth of population in these counties supports the law of suburban development as postulated by Douglass,[9] that cities go out in proportion as they go up.

Trend of city population

New York State. In 1855 nine cities contained approximately one-third of the State's inhabitants, 33.8 per cent, but by 1920 more than three-fourths, 78 per cent, lived in 58 cities (table 1). In 1855 only New York City had a population above one hundred thousand — 885,952 — but by 1920 there were six having a combined population of 6,807,810, or 65 per cent of the total population of the State. The percentage of the total that the city population constituted increased continuously from decade to decade from 1855 to 1920 (table 1).

Sections. In the urban counties the city population grew from approximately one-fourth of the total for the State in 1855, to almost

[9] Douglass, Harlan Paul. The suburban trend, p. 24, 28. 1925.

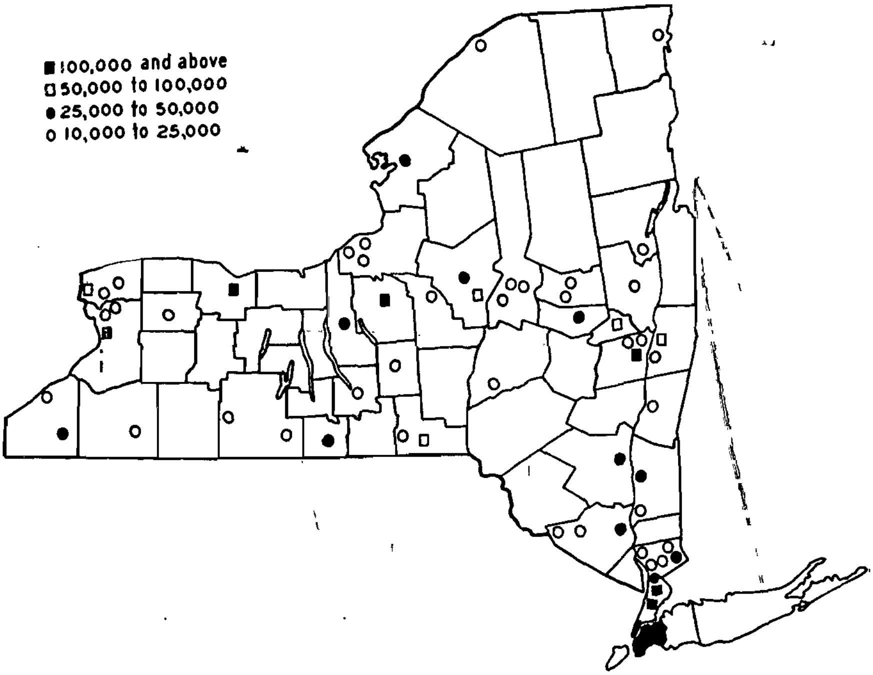


FIGURE 7. LOCATION OF CITIES IN NEW YORK, 1920

three-fourths in 1920,[10] the exact percentages being 24.4 and 72.7, respectively (table 2). The farming counties contained no cities in 1855, but by 1920 there were thirteen cities which had 201,945 inhabitants, making 18.8 per cent of the total farming-county population (table 3). In both the farming and the urban counties the city population increased, while the total population outside the cities declined. Like the farming counties, the suburban counties had no cities in 1855, but by 1920 the number had grown to five with a combined population of 97,390, which was 18.5 per cent of the total for the State (table 4). In contrast with the farming and urban counties, the population outside the cities increased in the suburban counties along with that in the cities.

Analysis of the city growth. The increase in the population for cities comes from three sources for each census year: (1) the natural growth by births and by people moving in; (2) the incorporation of

[10] When the total population of the State is mentioned, it includes that of New York City; but when the total of any section is used, it excludes New York City since that is not included in any section.

new cities and of suburban territory; and (3) the increasing of the population of places which were towns the previous census year, to 10,000 or more, which on the basis of population made them cities. The second of these sources is very important in suburban areas, but the third is of equal significance and needs a few illustrations. Between 1855 and 1870, eleven towns became cities by attaining a population of 10,000; between 1900 and 1910 there were twelve; and other decades showed similar growths.[11]

Inevitably the greatest growth of city population occurred in the urban counties; of twelve towns that became cities between 1900 and 1910, seven were in this group and four were in the farming counties. Cities begot cities, until by 1920 thirty-nine of the total fifty-seven cities outside of New York City were in the urban counties. Respecting cities of 25,000 to 100,000, Douglass, in *The Suburban Trend,*[12] says: "Nearly one-third of all cities of 25,000 to 100,000 population are suburbs. Their growth is the spill-over of great cities and part of the metropolitan movement."

The increase in city population in the farming counties was due to the towns becoming cities and the growing of the smaller cities, rather than to the excessive development of any one or two places.

This study seems to indicate certain hypotheses which may be suggested respecting urban population and city service relationships. One is that when a municipality contains 10,000 residents, it has reached a position which makes it largely stable; population seldom declines, disregarding the conditions in the immediately surrounding region. A second is that if a city is in close proximity to other cities — that is, in predominantly urban territory — it is largely independent of the farm area with respect to services; but if it is in territory predominantly farming there remains an interdependence, especially for small cities, in selling to and drawing labor and products from the country.

Trends of large towns, 5000 to 9999

Taking the State as a whole, the large towns were primarily places in transition from small towns to cities. Great variation from decade to decade in both numbers and population characterized their trends (tables 1 to 5). During each decade some places grew into this class while others grew out of it. In 1900 there were twenty-six in the whole State; twelve of these became cities before 1910 and twelve others took their place.[13] The percentage of the total population that lived in these towns was always small (table 1).

[11] It was thought unnecessary to place all this material in tables.
[12] Pages 42–43.
[13] Often towns decreased to a lower class, which happened in this case.

TABLE 1. NEW YORK STATE, TOTAL POPULATION, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total population		Cities 10,000 and above			Towns 5000 to 9999			Towns 2500 to 4999			Rural	
	Population*	Per cent increase	Number*	Population*	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent of total
1920	10,385,227	14.0	58	8,103,046	78.0	30	200,606	1.9	81	286,192	2.7	1,795,383	17.3
1910	9,113,614	25.4	52	6,781,771†	74.4	24	157,990	1.7	71	248,566	2.7	1,925,287	21.1
1900	7,268,894	21.1	40	4,916,314	67.6	26	191,905	2.6	55	196,510	2.7	1,964,165	27.0
1890	6,003,174	18.1	31	3,610,695	60.1	29	219,590	3.6	48	174,004	2.9	1,998,885	33.3
1880	5,082,871	16.0	22	2,622,460	51.6	25	178,526	3.5	46	156,163	3.1	2,125,722	41.8
1870	4,382,759	26.4	20	2,008,482	45.8	21	131,533	3.0	44	150,453	3.4	2,092,291	47.7
1855	3,466,212	......	9	1,170,500	33.8	17	125,923	3.6	26	88,606	2.5	2,081,183	60.0

* Includes New York City. The total and the city population in tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 do not total the same as in table 1, due to this fact.
† The incorporated population for various classes for 1910 and previously may not be the same as certain totals in the census. This is because places which united into one within the period being studied were generally regarded as one place throughout the different years.

TABLE 2. URBAN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total population		Cities 10,000 and above			Towns 5000 to 9999			Towns 2500 to 4999			Rural	
	Population	Per cent increase	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent of total
1920..........	3,005,092	16.4	39	2,183,663	72.7	11	72,538	2.4	30	108,021	3.6	640,870	21.3
1910..........	2,581,628	20.2	36	1,775,496	68.8	9	55,074	2.1	23	75,802	2.9	675,256	26.2
1900..........	2,148,046	15.0	29	1,321,826	61.5	11	81,382	3.8	16	56,123	2.6	688,715	32.1
1890..........	1,868,189	18.8	22	1,000,772	53.6	14	114,132	6.1	14	51,306	2.7	701,979	37.6
1880..........	1,572,286	10.7	16	656,495	41.7	14	99,906	6.3	15	50,201	3.2	765,684	48.7
1870..........	1,420,776	21.8	17	533,471	37.5	11	61,292	4.3	14	46,055	3.2	779,958	54.9
1855..........	1,166,227	......	8	284,548	24.4	10	80,046	6.9	9	32,205	2.8	769,428	66.0

TABLE 3. FARMING COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total population		Cities 10,000 and above			Towns 5000 to 9999			Towns 2500 to 4999			Rural	
	Population	Per cent increase	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent of total
1920..........	1,071,573	(−2.5)	13	201,945	18.8	11	74,712	7.0	30	109,211	10.2	685,705	64.0
1910..........	1,099,650	0.6	11	158,949	14.4	11	75,920	6.9	28	103,251	9.4	761,530	69.2
1900..........	1,093,321	0.8	7	93,286	8.5	10	74,256	6.8	29	108,644	9.9	817,135	74.7
1890..........	1,084,110	(−0.4)	5	60,437	5.6	12	81,091	7.5	26	91,314	8.4	851,268	78.5
1880..........	1,089,051	5.1	3	31,858	2.9	8	52,777	4.8	22	76,158	7.0	928,258	85.2
1870..........	1,036,006	4.0	1	10,076	1.0	6	42,885	4.1	23	81,512	7.9	901,533	87.0
1855..........	996,105	......	....	....	....	4	24,357	2.4	12	40,754	4.1	930,994	93.5

TABLE 4. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total population		Cities 10,000 and above			Towns 5000 to 9999			Towns 2500 to 4999			Rural	
	Population	Per cent increase	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent of total
1920..........	526,469	6.8	5	97,390	18.5	6	40,626	7.7	18	58,597	11.1	329,856	62.6
1910..........	493,034	17.2	4	80,443	16.3	2	15,233	3.1	17	58,545	11.9	338,813	68.7
1900..........	420,607	8.0	3	64,000	15.2	3	24,848	5.9	8	26,414	6.3	305,345	72.6
1890..........	389,355	9.2	3	56,325	14.5	3	24,367	6.2	5	18,967	4.9	289,696	74.4
1880..........	356,390	11.1	2	36,393	10.2	3	25,843	7.2	6	18,726	5.2	275,428	77.3
1870..........	320,702	16.4	1	17,014	5.3	4	27,356	8.5	5	15,395	4.8	260,937	81.4
1855..........	275,516	......	....	....	....	3	21,520	7.8	4	13,117	4.8	240,879	87.4

TABLE 5. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total population		Towns 5000 to 9999			Towns 2500 to 4999			Rural	
	Population	Per cent increase	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent of total
1920............................	162,045	(-6.0)	2	12,730	7.8	3	10,363	6.4	138,952	85.7
1910............................	172,419	1.6	2	11,763	6.8	3	10,968	6.4	149,688	86.8
1900............................	169,718	0.8	2	11,419	6.7	2	5,329	3.1	152,970	90.1
1890............................	168,359	0.5	..	......	...	3	12,417	7.4	155,942	92.6
1880............................	167,430	6.4	..	......	...	3	11,078	6.6	156,352	93.4
1870............................	157,354	10.5	..	......	...	2	7,491	4.8	149,863	95.2
1855............................	142,412	...	..	......	...	1	2,530	1.8	139,882	98.2

The trends in numbers and population of the large towns varied somewhat for different sections of the State. The gain was much more rapid in the urban and the suburban than in the farming counties. The towns remained more stable in the farming than in the urban and the suburban counties, as in the latter sections the urban influences constantly made cities of them. (Details are given in tables 1 to 5.) The towns in the urban counties grew by virtue of their own activities, while those in the suburban counties grew because of pressure from the cities.

Trends of small towns, 2500 to 4999

The small towns of the State increased in both numbers and population from 1855 to 1920. The number passed from twenty-six with a total population of 88,606 in 1855, to eighty-one having a population of 286,192 in 1920. No decade was marked by a decrease in either numbers or population, and the percentage of the total population belonging in the small towns remained fairly constant. Indeed, for each of the three decades from 1890 to 1920 the percentage of the total was exactly the same, 2.7. Furthermore, this element constituted an increasing percentage of the non-city population throughout all the time under consideration.

The number of small towns and of persons living in them grew in all sections of the State, but certain contrasts prevailed. The percentage of the total population found in them was much smaller in the urban than in the other counties, but this was due to the predominance of the cities rather than to the few small towns or the small population in them, since the numbers in the urban and the farming counties were approximately the same in 1920. However, in the years previous to 1920 these places increased in numbers and in population more in the urban and the suburban counties than in the other two sections.

The trends in numbers and population of these places indicate that in the social organization of the farming and the mountain counties they were of more importance in 1920 than previously, and that they perform a rather distinct function as small towns. On the other hand, in the suburban counties they were primarily places in transition between villages and larger towns. In the urban counties the trend was very similar to that in the farming counties prior to 1900, but like that in the suburban counties afterward, which shows the growing influence of the cities.

RURAL POPULATION

The rural population, though composed of diverse groups, is characterized by the negative fact that it is made up of people not living in towns and cities. The common definition of *rural population* (as given by the United States Bureau of the Census), "that living outside places of 2500 and above" is accepted. Though the author holds that this definition is inadequate and unsatisfactory, it is adhered to in considering the trends of the total rural population for the State and for the several sections. A knowledge of these trends from 1855 to 1920 affords a suitable basis for further analyses of the four classes of which rural population is formed.

New York State

The rural population of New York grew from 2,081,183 in 18 2,125,722 in 1880, but decreased in each subsequent decade until i

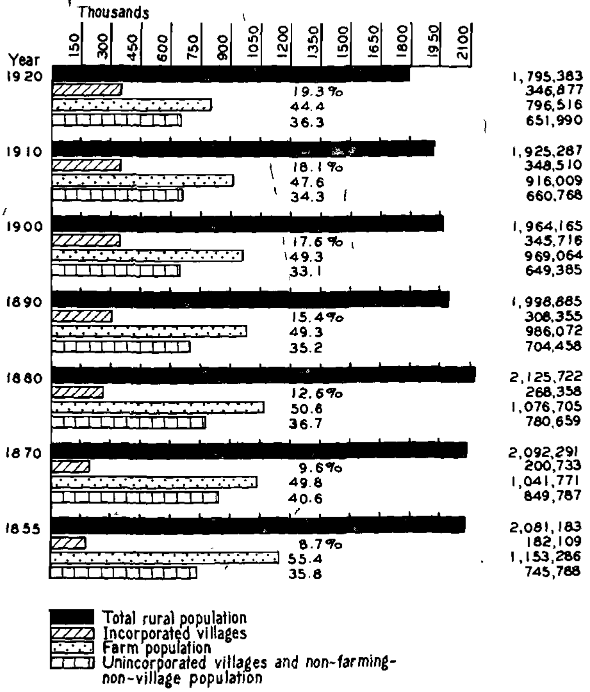


FIGURE 8. NEW YORK STATE: TOTAL RURAL POPULATION AND ITS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920, AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED

TABLE 6. NEW YORK STATE, RURAL POPULATION AND ITS VARIOUS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total rural*			Incorporated villages				Farm				Unincorporated villages and non-farming-non-village population			
	Population	Per cent of state total	Per cent increase or decrease	Number	Population	Per cent of state total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of state total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease	Population	Per cent of state total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease
1920	1,795,383	17.3	-6.7	365	346,877	3.3	19.3	796,516	7.7	44.4	-13.0	651,990	6.3	36.3	-1.3
1910	1,925,287	21.1	-2.0	347	348,510	3.8	18.1	916,009	10.0	47.6	-5.5	660,768	7.2	34.3	+1.7
1900	1,964,165	27.0	-1.7	336	345,716	4.7	17.6	969,064	13.3	49.3	-1.7	649,385	8.9	33.1	-7.8
1890	1,998,885	33.3	-6.0	323	308,355	5.1	15.4	986,072	16.4	49.3	-8.4	704,458	11.7	35.2	-9.8
1880	2,125,722	41.8	+1.6	273	268,358	5.3	12.6	1,076,705	21.2	50.6	+3.3	780,659	15.3	36.7	-8.1
1870	2,092,291	47.7	+0.5	205	200,733	4.6	9.6	1,041,771	23.8	49.8	-9.7	849,787	19.4	40.6	+13.9
1855	2,081,183	60.0	......	175	182,109	5.2	8.7	1,153,286	33.3	55.4	......	745,788	21.5	35.8	......

* See table 1, page 21, for total population of State.

1,795,383 in 1920 (table 6). The decades of greatest decline were 1880 to 1890 and 1910 to 1920.

In 1855, 60 per cent of the total population[14] was rural, but by 1920 the rural population formed only 17.3 per cent of the total; it thus declined both relatively and absolutely. Since the greatest actual decline came between 1910 and 1920, the importance of the rural population appeared to decrease at an accelerating rate.

Sections

The rural population was less in 1920 than in 1855 in all sections of the State except in the suburban counties. In the urban counties

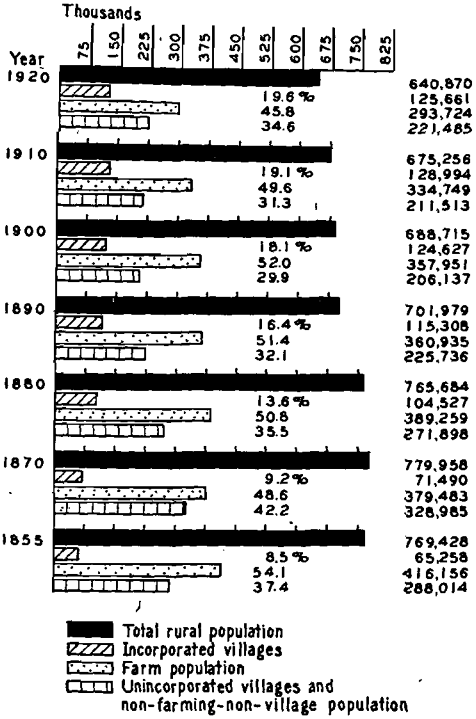


FIGURE 9. URBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL RURAL POPULATION AND ITS CLASSES, 1855 to 1920, AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED

[14] The total population here includes New York City.

TABLE 7. URBAN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION AND ITS VARIOUS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total rural*			Incorporated villages				Farm				Unincorporated villages and non-farming-non-village population			
	Population	Per cent of urban total	Per cent increase or decrease	Number	Population	Per cent of urban total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of urban total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease	Population	Per cent of urban total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease
1920	640,870	21 3	-5 1	132	125,661	4.2	19.6	293,724	9.8	45.8	-12.2	221,485	7.4	34.6	+4.7
1910	675,256	26.2	-1.9	134	128,994	5.0	19.1	334,749	13.0	49.6	-6.5	211,513	8.2	31.3	+2.6
1900	688,715	32.1	-1.9	129	124,627	5.8	18.1	357,951	16.7	52.0	-0.8	206,137	9.6	29.9	-8.7
1890	701,979	37 6	-8.3	126	115,308	6.2	16.4	360,935	19.3	51.4	-7.3	225,736	12.1	32.1	-17.0
1880	765,684	48 7	-1.8	112	104,527	6.6	13.6	389,259	24.7	50.8	+2.6	271,898	17.3	35.5	-17.3
1870	779,958	54 9	+1.4	78	71,490	5.0	9 2	379,483	26.7	48.6	-8.8	328,985	23.1	42.2	+14.2
1855	769,428	66.0	.....	68	65,258	5.6	8.5	416,156	35.7	54.1	......	288,014	24.7	37.4	......

* See table 2, page 22, for urban population of State.

TABLE 8. FARMING COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION AND ITS VARIOUS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total rural*			Incorporated villages				Farm				Unincorporated villages and non-farming-non-village population			
	Population	Per cent of farming total	Per cent increase or decrease	Number	Population	Per cent of farming total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of farming total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease	Population	Per cent of farming total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease
1920	685,705	64.0	-9.9	171	153,600	14.3	22.4	379,560	35.4	55.3	-13.1	152,545	14.2	22.2	-11.3
1910	761,530	69.2	-6.8	158	152,689	13.9	20.0	436,928	39.7	57.4	-6.2	171,913	15.6	22.6	-12.2
1900	817,135	74.7	-4.0	155	155,740	14.2	19.1	465,684	42.6	57.0	-3.3	195,711	17.9	23.9	-15.1
1890	851,268	78.5	-8 3	144	139,158	12.8	16.3	481,672	44.4	56.6	-6.0	230,438	21.2	27.1	-19.7
1880	928,258	85.2	+3.0	127	128,621	11.8	13.8	512,532	47.1	55.2	+3.0	287,105	26.4	30.9	-6.7
1870	901,533	87.0	-3.2	102	96,162	9.3	10.7	497,573	48.0	55.2	-8.8	307,798	29.7	34.1	+3.9
1855	930,994	93.5	......	86	88,930	8.9	9.5	545,920	54.8	58.6	......	296,144	29.7	31.8	......

* See table 3, page 22, for farming population of State.

TABLE 9. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION AND ITS VARIOUS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total rural*			Incorporated villages				Farm				Unincorporated villages and non-farming-non-village population			
	Population	Per cent of suburban total	Per cent increase or decrease	Number	Population	Per cent of suburban total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of suburban total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease	Population	Per cent of suburban total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease
1920	329,856	62.6	-2.6	38	41,366	7.9	12.5	64,133	12.2	19.4	-14.3	224,357	42.6	68.0	+1.3
1910	338,813	68.7	+11.0	33	42,485	8.6	12.5	74,871	15.2	22.1	+6.0	221,457	44.9	65.4	+17.6
1900	305,345	72.6	+5.4	33	46,350	11.0	15.2	70,641	16.8	23.1	+6.0	188,354	44.8	61.7	-2.9
1890	289,696	74.4	+5.2	27	29,090	7.5	10.0	66,636	17.1	23.0	-28.2	193,970	49.8	67.0	+21.1
1880	275,428	77.3	+5.5	19	22,401	6.3	8.1	92,852	26.0	33.7	+7.0	160,175	44.9	58.1	+5.4
1870	260,937	81.4	+8.3	15	22,192	6.9	8.5	86,798	27.1	33.3	-17.7	151,947	47.4	58.2	+32.0
1855	240,879	87.4	......	15	20,257	7.3	8.4	105,515	38.3	43.8	......	115,107	41.8	47.8	......

* See table 4, page 23, for suburban population of State.

TABLE 10. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION AND ITS VARIOUS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920

Year	Total rural*			Incorporated villages				Farm				Unincorporated villages and non-farming-non-village population			
	Population	Per cent of mountain total	Per cent increase or decrease	Number	Population	Per cent of mountain total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of mountain total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease	Population	Per cent of mountain total	Per cent of rural	Per cent increase or decrease
1920	138,952	85.7	-7.2	24	26,250	16.2	18.9	59,099	36.5	42.5	-14.9	53,603	33.1	38.6	-4.1
1910	149,688	86.8	-2.1	22	24,342	14.1	16.3	69,461	40.3	46.4	-7.1	55,885	32.4	37.3	-5.6
1900	152,970	90.1	-1.9	19	18,999	11.2	12.4	74,788	44.1	48.9	-2.6	59,183	34.9	38.7	+9.0
1890	155,942	92.6	-0.3	26	24,799	14.7	15.9	76,829	45.6	49.3	-6.4	54,314	32.3	34.8	-11.7
1880	156,352	93.4	+4.3	15	12,809	7.6	8.2	82,062	49.0	52.5	+5.3	61,481	36.7	39.3	+0.7
1870	149,863	95.2	+7.1	10	10,889	6.9	7.3	77,917	49.5	52.0	-9.1	61,057	38.8	40.7	+31.2
1855	139,882	98.2	......	6	7,664	5.5	5.5	85,695	60.2	61.3	......	46,523	32.7	33.3	......

* See table 5, page 23, for mountain population of State.

it grew only between 1855 and 1870, decreasing in each subsequent decade (table 7 and figure 9). The decades of greatest decline were 1880 to 1890 and 1910 to 1920, when the numbers dropped 8.3 and 5.1 per cent, respectively. Necessarily the percentage which was rural in the urban counties declined greatly; in 1855 the rural population constituted 66 per cent of the total, but it was only 21.3 per cent by 1920.

The shifting in the actual number of persons belonging in the rural-population group was a little greater in the farming counties than in the urban. A decline occurred between 1855 and 1870, an increase from 1870 to 1880, and a steady decrease for each subsequent decade until 1920 (table 8 and figure 10). The decades of greatest loss in rural population for the farming counties were 1880 to 1890 and 1910 to 1920, the loss being 8.3 per cent for the former and 9.9 per cent for the latter. The rural population was more dominant in the farming

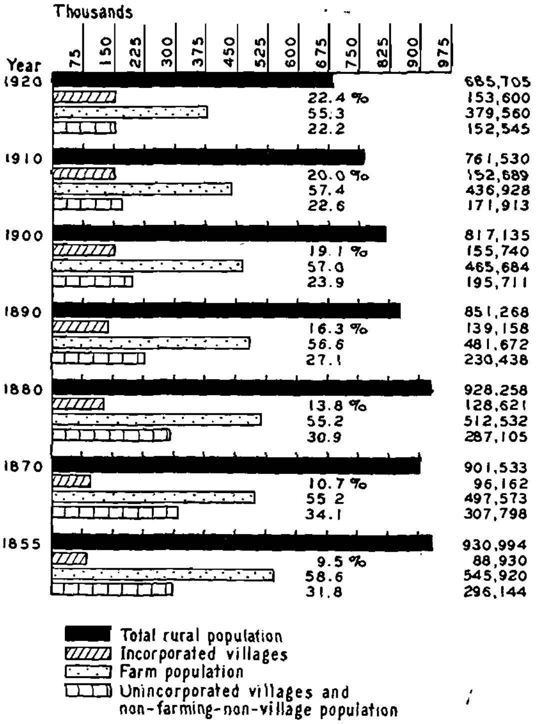


FIGURE 10. FARMING COUNTIES: TOTAL RURAL POPULATION AND ITS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920, AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED

counties than in the urban, as it made up 93.5 per cent of the total in 1855 but declined to 64 per cent by 1920, and the percentage steadily grew less from year to year.

In marked contrast with the general situation of the rural population in the urban and the farming sections is that found in suburban counties. Here the number of persons belonging in the rural-population

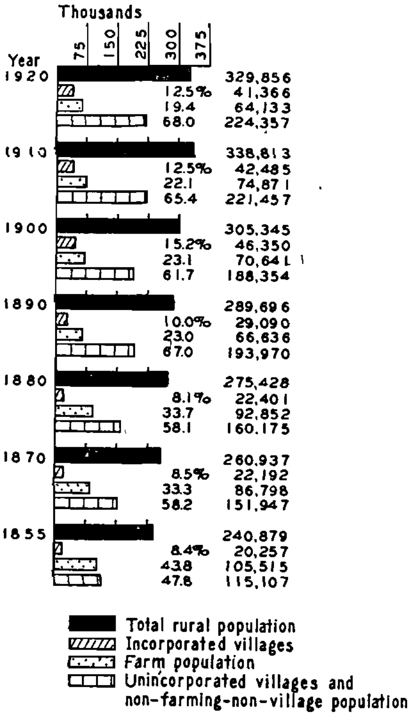


FIGURE 11. SUBURBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL RURAL POPULATION AND ITS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920, AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED

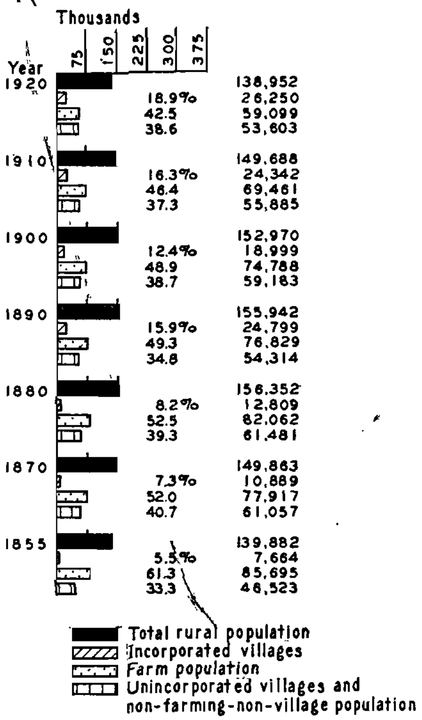


FIGURE 12. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES: TOTAL RURAL POPULATION AND ITS CLASSES, 1855 TO 1920, AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED

group steadily grew from year to year from 1855 until 1910 (table 9 and figure 11). The percentage growth for each intercensus period never dropped below 5 and was 11 between 1900 and 1910. Between 1910 and 1920 the rural population decreased 2.6 per cent, due probably to the incorporation of unincorporated suburban territory. The percentage of the total population in the suburban counties which the rural population constituted, stood close to that of the farming counties,

being 87.4 per cent in 1855 and 62.6 in 1920. The decline between these two percentages was steady from year to year. Though the percentage of the total population that the rural group formed constantly became smaller, it made up over 60 per cent in 1920. This percentage is very near the same as for the farming counties, yet the constituent classes of the rural population in the farming and the suburban counties are very different, as is shown later.

The fluctuation in the number of persons in the rural population in the mountain counties followed very closely that in the urban counties, growing from 1855 until 1880 and declining thereafter (table 10 and figure 12). Also for each succeeding decade the percentage of decrease was accelerated. A larger ratio of the total population in the mountain counties was rural than in either of the other sections. In 1855 it was 98.2 per cent, but had declined to 85.7 per cent by 1920.

FARM POPULATION

The farm population constituted a larger percentage of the rural, 44.4 per cent in 1920, than did any of the other component classes in all the census years here examined (table 6). Three aspects regarding the shifting of farm population are presented: (1) the percentage of the total and of the rural population that the farm population constituted; (2) the trend for the whole State and for the various sections; and (3) the change in farm-population density.

Percentage of total and rural population in farm population

The farm population dropped from 33.3 per cent of the total population of the State in 1855, to 7.7 per cent in 1920 (table 6). Since the total with which the farm population was compared includes New York City, the percentage was unusually small.

Considerable difference prevailed in the different sections in the percentage of the total population that the farm population constituted for the beginning and for the end of the period. In the urban counties, 35.7 per cent of the total population was farming in 1855 but only 9.8 per cent in 1920 (table 7). The farm population in the farming counties (table 8) decreased from 54.8 per cent to 35.4 per cent of the total in the same period; for the suburban counties (table 9) the ratios were 38.3 and 12.2 per cent of the total for 1855 and 1920, respectively, and for the mountain counties (table 10) 60.2 and 36.5 per cent, respectively.

The farm population fell from 55.4 per cent of the rural population in 1855 to 44.4 per cent in 1920 in the State as a whole. This ratio

varied considerably for the different groups of counties. In the urban counties the drop was from 54.1 to 45.8 per cent; in the farming counties, from 58.6 to 55.3 per cent; in the suburban counties, from 43.8 to 19.4 per cent; and in the mountain counties, from 61.3 to 42.5 per cent. The farm population has come nearer to holding its own in both the urban and the farming counties than in the suburban or the mountain counties if the whole period under discussion is considered.

Trend

New York State

The total farm population of New York was greater in 1855 than at any subsequent time. It declined between 1855 and 1870, but increased between 1870 and 1880; yet the total of 1880 did not reach that of 1855 (table 6 and figure 8). In each decade following 1880 there was a decrease. Approximately 350,000 fewer farm people lived in the State in 1920 than 1855, and 280,000 fewer in 1920 than in 1880. This means that there was approximately one-third fewer people on farms in the State in 1920 than in 1855. The percentage loss increased after 1900, being 13 per cent for the decade from 1910 to 1920 (table 6), when the average yearly decrease in farm population was 11,949 (table 11).

TABLE 11. NEW YORK STATE AND VARIOUS SECTIONS, AVERAGE YEARLY INCREASE AND DECREASE IN FARM POPULATION FOR THE DIFFERENT DECADES

Decade	New York State	Urban counties	Farming counties	Suburban counties	Mountain counties
1910-1920	-11,949	-4,102	-5,737	-1,074	-1,036
1900-1910	-5,306	-2,320	-2,876	+423	-533
1890-1900	-1,701	-298	-1,599	+400	-204
1880-1890	-9,063	-2,832	-3,086	-2,622	-523
1870-1880	+3,493	+978	+1,496	+605	+414
1855-1870	-7,434	-2,445	-3,223	-1,248	-518

Sections

The trend of the farm population by sections affords one marked contrast with the trend for the whole State: it follows the same course in the urban, farming, and mountain counties, but differs markedly in the suburban counties. In the first three sections the number dropped between 1855 and 1870, increased between 1870 and 1880, and thereafter steadily decreased; but in the suburban counties it followed the same falling and rising from 1855 until 1880, declined in the decade from 1880 to 1890, increased until 1910, and again declined from 1910 to 1920. Why the farm population increased as it did in the suburban

counties from 1890 to 1910 is a question, but the tables (9 and 11) suggest to the investigator that "suburbanization" was in process, and at the point when farms were being turned into vegetable gardens the farm population increased.

An interesting aspect regarding this decline concerns the percentage of decrease for the various intercensus years. The years that showed the greatest percentage decline for the previous periods — 1870, 1890, 1910, and 1920 — were the same in the urban, farming, and mountain counties as for the whole State. The rate of decline in all sections was high and differed very little between 1910 and 1920, though the lowest was in the urban and the highest in the mountain counties. In the suburban counties the greatest percentage decline in the farm population came between 1880 and 1890; in the two following decades an increase of 6 per cent took place for each, but between 1910 and 1920 a decrease of 14.3 per cent occurred.

An examination of these data suggests certain factors that are very pertinent in influencing the shifting of farm population. Two elements seem to be dominant — the industrial situation in the cities, and the

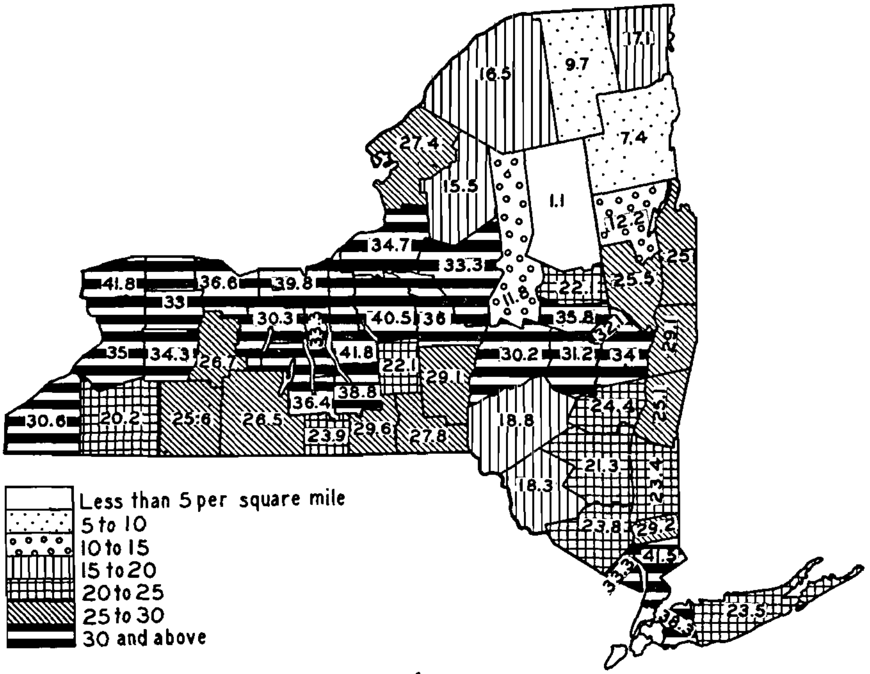


FIGURE 13. DENSITY OF FARM POPULATION BY COUNTIES, 1855

prices of farm products. Between 1855 and 1890 came the Civil War period, with high prices, depression, and slow movement toward recovery. Apparently during the period of the war and until the financial crisis of 1873, there was a flow of farm population to the cities. The crash in farm prices came in 1865 and 1866 and stimulated this population flow until the industrial crisis of 1873 checked it.

This industrial crash seems to have kept population on the farms, which accounts for the increase that took place between 1870 and 1880. It is true that the general price level had not taken any great advance in 1880, but people can live on farms holding a relatively low standard of living without a high return from marketing products. The price level of farm products began rising gradually during the latter nineties and continued rising in the first part of the twentieth century, but the increase was not sufficient to compensate for the strong competition of the agricultural Middle West, and farm population inevitably declined. Farm prices were high between 1910 and 1920 owing to the World War, but wages in industry were relatively higher and population left the farms at the highest rate of any period.

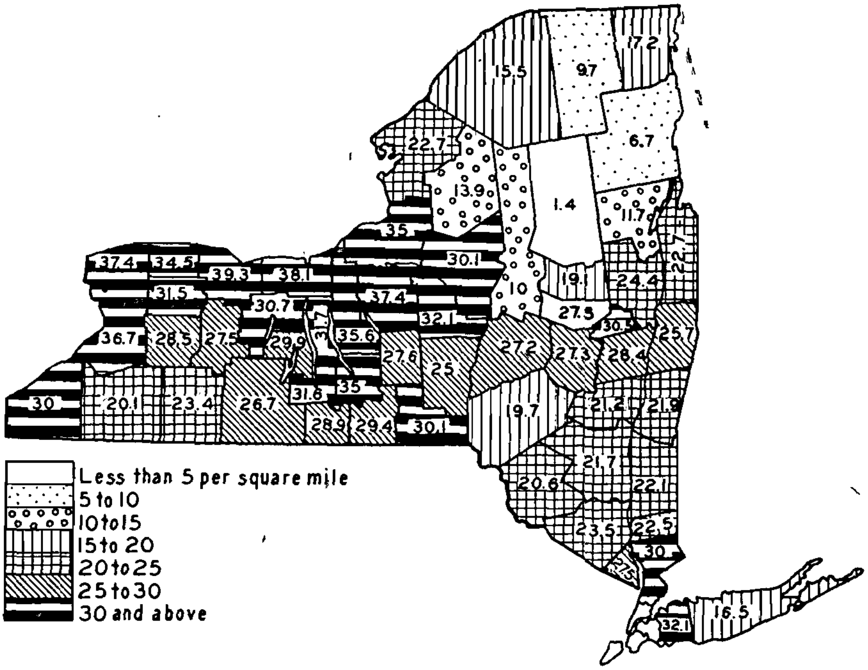


FIGURE 14. DENSITY OF FARM POPULATION BY COUNTIES, 1880

Density of farm population

The next consideration regards the density of farm population. Much of the information on density is graphically and numerically shown in figures 13, 14, 15, and 16. Only four census periods are included, as these are sufficient for comparative purposes. In no county was there an increase in density from 1880 to 1920, and in only eight was there a slight increase between 1855 and 1880. If the figures for these counties are wrong for either 1855 or 1880 by only a small percentage, then such an increase was not prevalent. However, these are general trends that are indicated by these maps. The counties with the greatest density for each of the years considered lie near the lakes. From year to year, however, the density became less in those counties, the same as in other parts of the State.

In 1855 eighteen counties had a density greater than 30 per square mile, but by 1920 there were only four. A comparison of the maps shows a decrease of the area of greater density, which grew less from year to year like the drying-up of a pond.

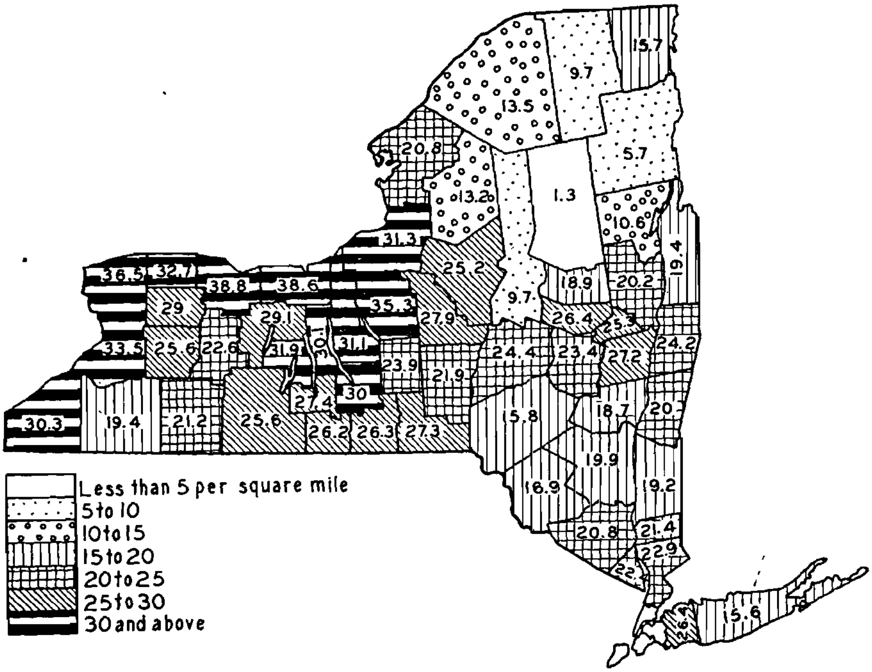


FIGURE 15. DENSITY OF FARM POPULATION BY COUNTIES, 1900

It is impossible to explain the change for each county, but certain factors that determine density are given as such appear on comparison of the maps showing density and those showing topography, soils, and location of cities. Given certain farm prices and a general level of farm practices, the chief influences determining density seem to have been topography, soils, and location of cities.

Cities make for or against a high rate of density, depending upon the city and its location. When the land about a city is turned into vegetable gardens, the farming population seems to increase, but when the land is taken over for urban use the farm population decreases. An examination of the shifting of the density of farm population in Monroe County suggests that Rochester helped to maintain the farm population; but a casual examination of the data on Nassau and Suffolk Counties shows the opposite effect. Yet, as indicated before, during two decades — 1890 to 1900 and 1900 to 1910 — the farm population increased in the suburban counties.

The type of production also influences the density of farm population; for example, the fruit regions had the greatest density in all

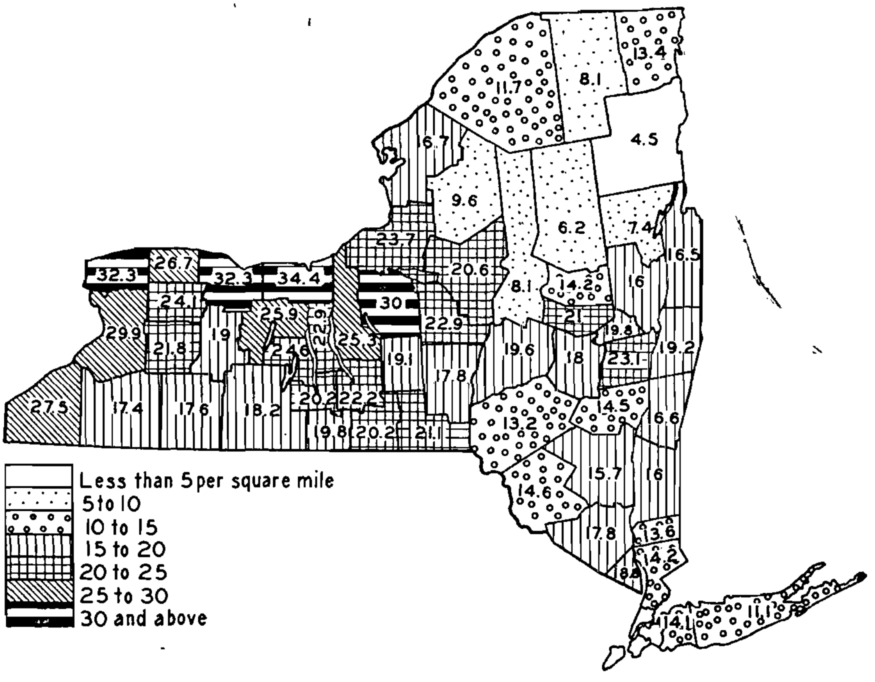


FIGURE 16. DENSITY OF FARM POPULATION BY COUNTIES, 1920

This factor is closely related to the type of soil
; which has not been mentioned — that is, size of
·mined by the type of soil and the demand for
ly of the trend of population and the number of
of crops indicates that there is a very close
ll of these.

AGE AND NON-FARMING-NON-VILLAGE POPULATION

village and non-farming-non-village population
ırgest percentage of the rural population in all
ed in this study. This class includes the residue
orporated-village and the farm population from
The groups in this class are people living in
those on the outskirts of the cities and outside
se engaged in mining, lumbering, and similar
charitable and correctional institutions outside
sons living in hamlets, and others living in the
ng. Data were not sufficient to separate the
from the non-farming-non-village population,
andling of the total as one class.[15]
h three factors regarding this class of popu-
ıge of the total and of the rural population
trend for the whole State and for the sections;
mining the population in this class.

of total and rural population

otal population of the State that the unincor-
rming-non-village population formed dropped
to 6.3 per cent in 1920 (table 6). The drop
otal belonging in the class was similar in the
nties to that in the State

The percentage of the total varied but little from year to year, being 41.8 per cent in 1855 and 42.6 per cent in 1920.

In the mountain counties this group made up about one-third of the total for all the census years under consideration, but it and its ratio to the total population decreased from 1900 to 1920.

Conditions determining population in this class

The factors that cause an increase in the total population of this class are obvious. The continued extension of city population into unincorporated territory, which may be either unincorporated villages or farming lands, is probably the most important. Buffalo's population has pushed into the surrounding region until within the metropolitan district outside of the city there was a population of 96,000 by 1920.[16] Part of this population, it is true, was found in cities of over 10,000; but in one township, outside of incorporated territory there was a population of 4070, and in another township a population of 7062.

The development of unincorporated industrial villages has made for increases in population in this class. These may be a part of the industrial "spill-over" of the large cities, or they may mark the development of an industry independent of the city. Portland Point, in Tompkins County, is such a village, having been built around the cement industry.

Likewise a number of forces make for constant decreases. The incorporation of suburban territory takes from the total population in this class every decade. A few quotations from the 1920 census reports explain the whole story: "Part of Elmira town[17] annexed to Elmira city since 1910." "Part of Greenport town annexed to Hudson city since 1910." "Parts of De Witt, Geddes, Onondaga, and Salina towns annexed to Syracuse city since 1910."

Another factor that constantly subtracts from the total of this population is the incorporation of unincorporated villages. Rarely is there an incorporation of a place which is of recent origin; usually it has existed as an unincorporated village for some time.

The population in this class decreases due to the closing of small industries. This has been especially true in the lumbering regions, as the State was dotted with sawmills in 1855.[18]

The movement of people into and out of resort centers has influenced the fluctuation of the population of this class in the different sections.

Probably another element has been the decline of the small unincorporated villages. This has been prevalent in some sections, particularly lumbering and remote farming districts, but sufficient data are

[16] Federal census of 1920, volume 1, Population.
[17] The term *town* refers here to township.
[18] Report of the Commission on Housing and Regional Planning for New York State, 1926.

not available to draw absolute conclusions and the statement is based on general observations.

THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE[19]

Incorporated villages are important centers of rural life, their population is a component part of the rural population, and accordingly these are given careful consideration in this study.

For purposes of a statistical study the legal term *village* in New York is inadequate; legally a place may have as few as three persons or over ten thousand and be a village, or have less than twenty-five hundred and be a city.

This section deals with the percentage in the incorporated villages of the total population and of the rural population, and with the trend in the number of villages and their population for the State and for the county groupings. In the analyses the ordinary method of counting gain and loss by class is pursued, only totals such as are given in the census reports being used without reference to the number that shifted from class to class or that became towns. These figures do not reveal the true growth, however, since growth often removed villages from a class and thus caused a decline in the total population of the class. The reasons for making this analysis as it is given, are two: first, to find whether there was any constancy in the number of persons living in different classes of villages, from year to year; and secondly, because only by following the usual method could the discussion of its weakness be made as is done in the "Analysis of Village Growth" (pages 56 to 73).

Percentage of total and rural population

Of the total population of the State, 5.2 per cent in 1855, and 5.3 per cent in 1880, but only 3.3 per cent in 1920, was in the incorporated villages (table 6, page 26). This percentage decline was due to the tremendous development of the cities and not to a great loss of village population. Therefore, in the farming counties this percentage grew from 8.9 to 14.3 (table 8).

The percentage of the rural population living in the villages steadily increased, rising from 8.7 in 1855 to 19.3 in 1920. This percentage increase prevailed in all sections, which means that this class of population increased in importance as a part of the rural population. In no section did this population form a large percentage of the total rural, the proportion being greatest in the farming counties where it was 22.4 per cent in 1920.

---

[19] The term *village* in this section refers only to the incorporated village unless otherwise specified.

TABLE 12. NEW YORK STATE, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES BY CLASSES, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VILLAGE POPULATION IN EACH CLASS

Year	Total		Large villages, 1000 to 2499			Major villages, 500 to 999			Minor villages, 250 to 499			Small villages, 50 to 249		
	Population	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number
1920	346,877	365	229,086	66.0	144	85,545	24.7	124	29,384	8.5	81	2,862	0.8	16
1910	348,510	347	232,717	66.8	148	88,267	25.3	124	25,864	7.4	67	1,662	0.5	8
1900	345,716	336	231,521	67.0	143	87,399	25.3	122	25,979	7.5	67	817	0.2	4
1890	308,355	323	189,228	61.4	123	98,054	31.8	141	20,113	6.5	54	960	0.3	5
1880	268,358	273	171,786	64.0	109	74,188	27.6	105	21,119	7.9	53	1,265	0.5	6
1870	200,733	205	128,156	63.8	85	56,286	28.0	76	15,566	7.8	40	725	0.4	4
1855	182,109	175	127,132	69.8	81	46,154	25.3	67	8,097	4.4	23	726	0.4	4

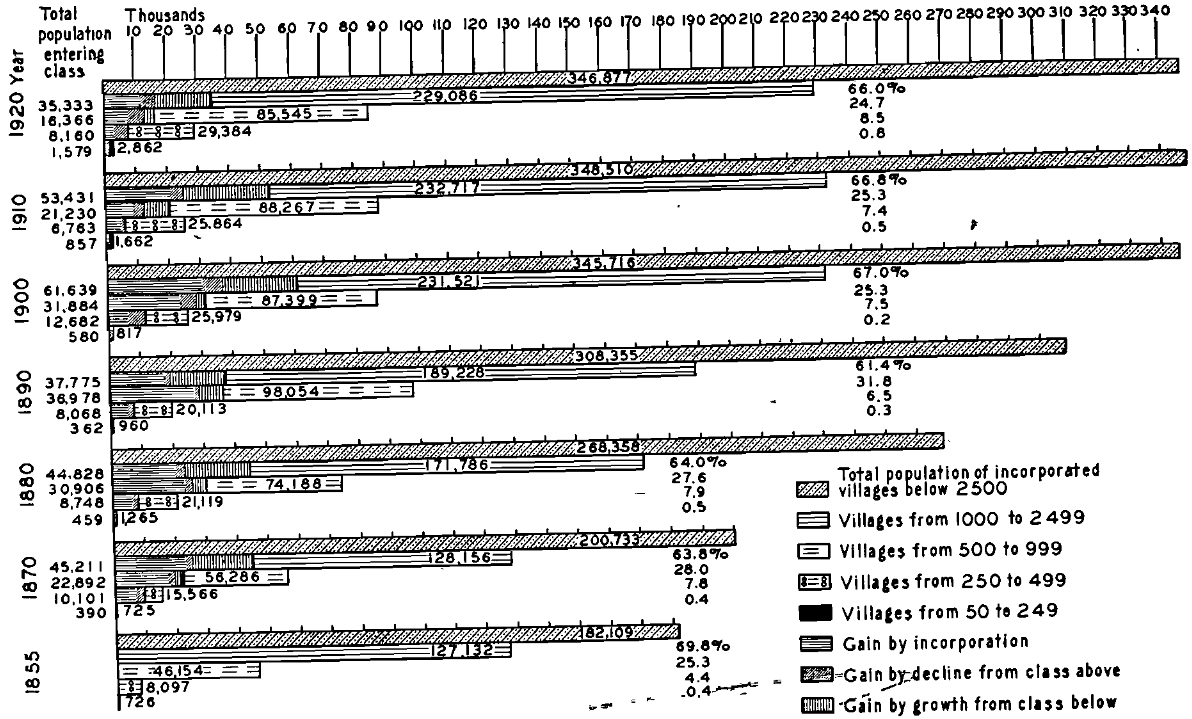


FIGURE 17. NEW YORK STATE:—TOTAL POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, 1855 TO 1920, POPULATION IN CLASSES OF SAME AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND POPULATION ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

Trend in number and population

New York State

The total number of incorporated villages in New York increased steadily from 175 in 1855 to 365 in 1920, and their population increased from 182,109 in 1855 to 348,510 in 1910 but dropped to 346,877 between 1910 and 1920 (tables 12 and 13, figures 17 and 22).

TABLE 13. NEW YORK STATE, PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN POPULATION AND IN NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES FOR EACH INTERCENSUS PERIOD

Period	Per cent increase in population	Per cent increase in number of villages
1910–1920	(-0.5)	5.2
1900–1910	0.8	3.3
1890–1900	12.1	4.0
1880–1890	14.9	18.3
1870–1880	33.7	33.2
1855–1870	10.2	17.1

Sections

In the urban counties, both the number of villages and their population increased from 1855 until 1910 and dropped from 1910 to 1920 (table 14, figures 18 and 23). In the farming counties the number of villages grew continuously throughout the entire period of study, but the population in them increased until 1900, dropped between 1900 and 1910, and increased again from 1910 to 1920 (table 15, figures 19 and 24). In the suburban counties the number of villages increased so that there were more in 1920 than in any previous year, but the total population in the villages did not always correspondingly increase, as there were 46,350 persons in thirty-three villages in 1900, which was the year of the greatest suburban village population, but only 41,366 in thirty-eight villages in 1920 (table 16, figures 20 and 25). In the mountain counties the fluctuation was not great in either numbers or population from year to year (table 17, figures 21 and 26).

A comparison of the decades of greatest increase and decrease in village population of sections shows considerable similarity between all sections except the suburban counties, where great variations occurred (table 18, page 50).

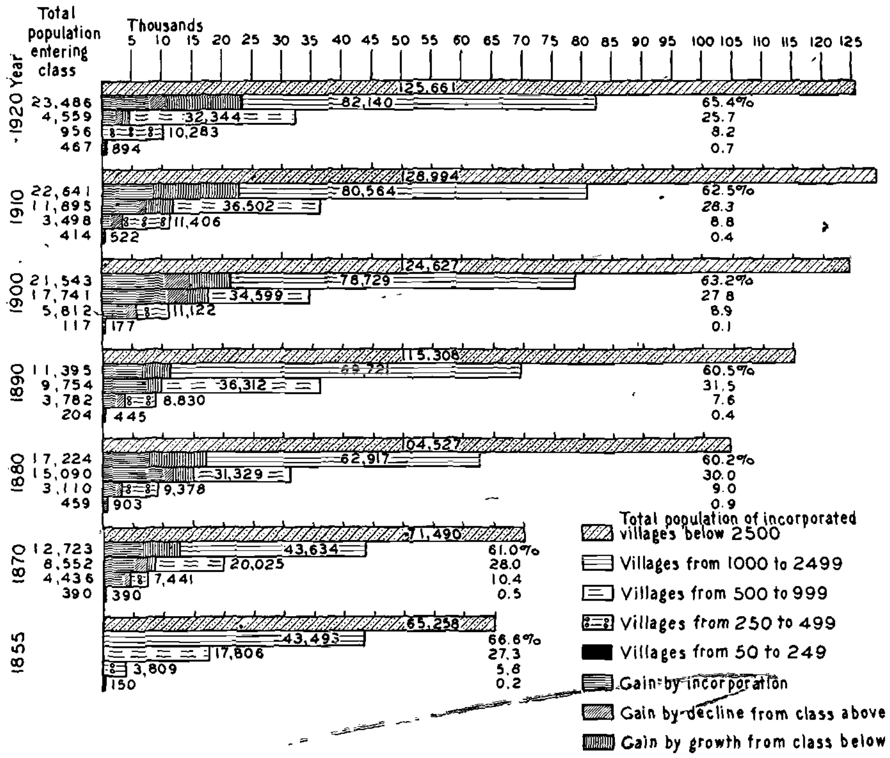


FIGURE 18. URBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, 1855 TO 1920, POPULATION IN CLASSES OF SAME AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND POPULATION ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

TABLE 14. URBAN COUNTIES, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES BY CLASSES, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VILLAGE POPULATION IN EACH CLASS

Year	Total		Large villages, 1000 to 2499			Major villages, 500 to 999			Minor villages, 250 to 499			Small villages, 50 to 249		
	Population	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number
1920	125,661	132	82,140	65.4	52	32,344	25.7	46	10,283	8.2	29	894	0.7	5
1910	128,994	134	80,564	62.5	50	36,502	28.3	52	11,406	8.8	29	522	0.4	3
1900	124,627	129	78,729	63.2	48	34,599	27.8	50	11,122	8.9	30	177	0.1	1
1890	115,308	126	69,721	60.5	46	36,312	31.5	53	8,830	7.6	25	445	0.4	2
1880	104,527	112	62,917	60.2	41	31,329	30.0	44	9,378	9.0	23	903	0.9	4
1870	71,490	78	43,634	61.0	31	20,025	28.0	27	7,441	10.4	18	390	0.5	2
1855	65,258	68	43,493	66.6	31	17,806	27.3	25	3,809	5.8	11	150	0.2	1

TABLE 15. FARMING COUNTIES, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES BY CLASSES, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VILLAGE POPULATION IN EACH CLASS

Year	Total		Large villages, 1000 to 2499			Major villages, 500 to 999			Minor villages, 250 to 499			Small villages, 50 to 249		
	Population	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number
1920	153,600	171	98,830	64.3	66	38,992	25.4	58	14,543	9.5	40	1,235	0.8	7
1910	152,689	158	100,583	65.9	68	40,087	26.3	56	10,879	7.1	29	1,140	0.7	5
1900	155,740	155	102,826	66.0	67	40,951	26.3	56	11,323	7.3	29	640	0.4	3
1890	139,158	144	86,103	61.9	57	43,448	31.2	61	9,272	6.7	24	335	0.2	2
1880	128,621	127	83,426	64.9	53	36,016	28.0	50	8,977	7.0	23	202	0.2	1
1870	96,162	102	58,560	60.9	39	29,781	31.0	41	7,636	7.9	21	185	0.2	1
1855	88,930	86	59,913	67.4	36	24,313	27.3	36	4,288	4.8	12	416	0.5	2

TABLE 16. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES BY CLASSES, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VILLAGE POPULATION IN EACH CLASS

Year	Total		Large villages, 1000 to 2499			Major villages, 500 to 999			Minor villages, 250 to 499			Small villages, 50 to 249		
	Population	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number
1920	41,366	38	31,687	76.6	18	6,309	15.2	9	2,637	6.4	7	733	1.8	4
1910	42,485	33	35,639	83.9	22	5,291	12.4	7	1,555	3.7	4	......	....	..
1900	46,350	33	38,861	83.8	22	6,610	14.3	9	879	1.9	2	......	....	..
1890	29,090	27	19,824	68.1	12	8,770	30.1	13	316	1.1	1	180	0.6	1
1880	22,401	19	18,489	82.5	11	2,664	11.9	4	1,088	4.9	3	160	0.7	1
1870	22,192	15	19,619	88.4	11	2,423	10.9	3	......	....	..	150	0.7	1
1855	20,257	15	18,186	89.8	11	1,911	9.4	3	......	....	..	160	0.8	1

TABLE 17. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES BY CLASSES, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VILLAGE POPULATION IN EACH CLASS

Year	Total		Large villages, 1000 to 2499			Major villages, 500 to 999			Minor villages, 250 to 499			Small villages, 50 to 249		
	Population	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number	Population	Per cent of total	Number
1920	26,250	24	16,429	62.6	8	7,900	30.1	11	1,921	7.3	5	......	....	..
1910	24,342	22	15,931	65.4	8	6,387	26.2	9	2,024	8.3	5	......	....	..
1900	18,999	19	11,105	58.4	6	5,239	27.6	7	2,655	14.0	6	......	....	..
1890	24,799	26	13,580	54.8	8	9,524	38.4	14	1,695	6.8	4	......	....	..
1880	12,809	15	6,954	54.3	4	4,179	32.6	7	1,676	13.1	4	......	....	..
1870	10,889	10	6,343	58.2	4	4,057	37.3	5	489	4.5	1	......	....	..
1855	7,664	6	5,540	72.3	3	2,124	27.7	3	.....	....	..	......	....	..

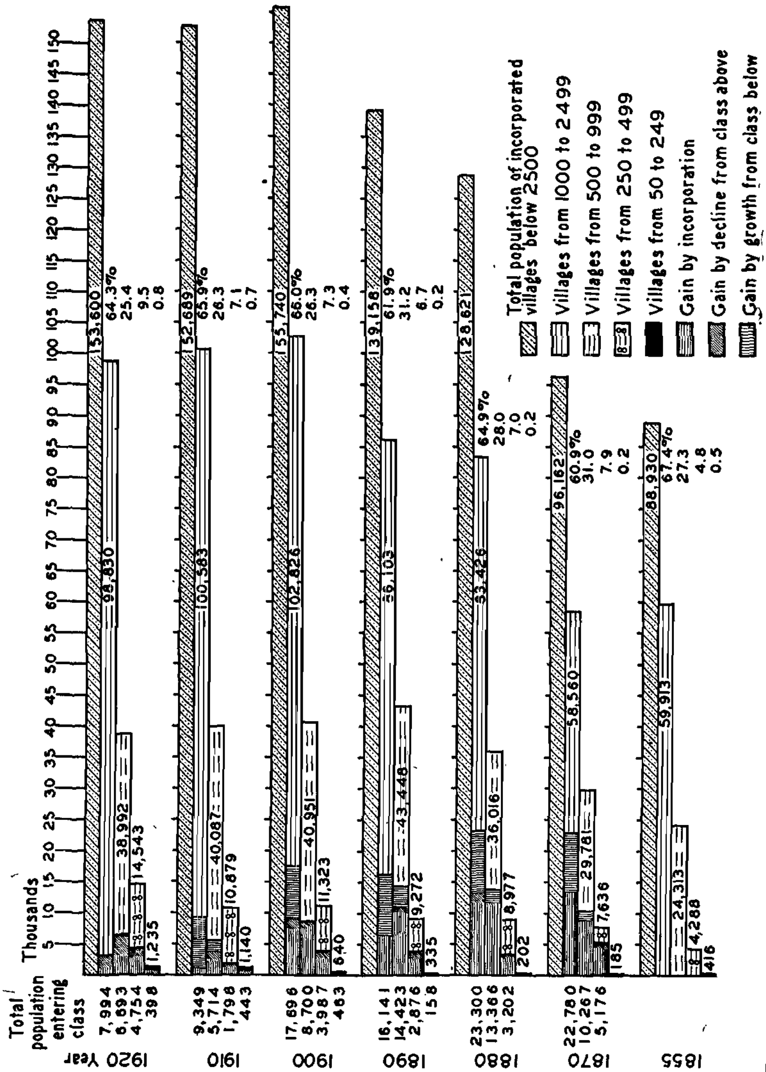


FIGURE 19.- FARMING COUNTIES: TOTAL POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, 1855 TO 1920, POPULATION IN CLASSES OF SAME AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND POPULATION ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

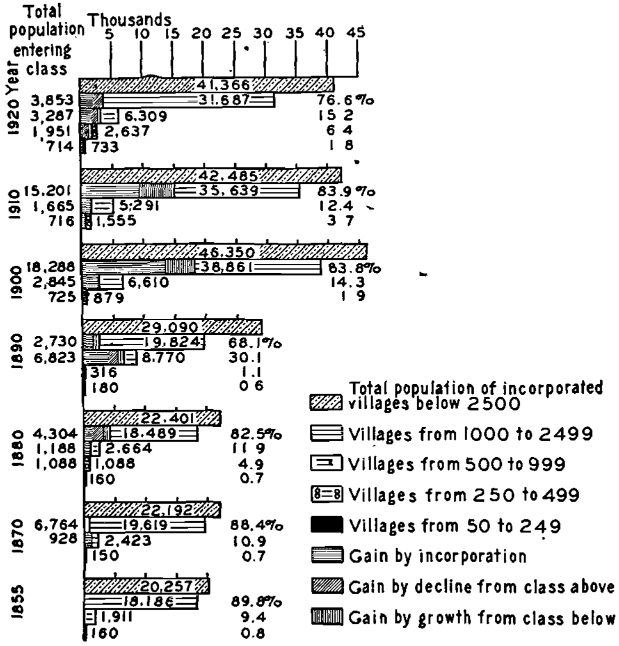


FIGURE 20. SUBURBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, 1855 TO 1920, POPULATION IN CLASSES OF SAME AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND POPULATION ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

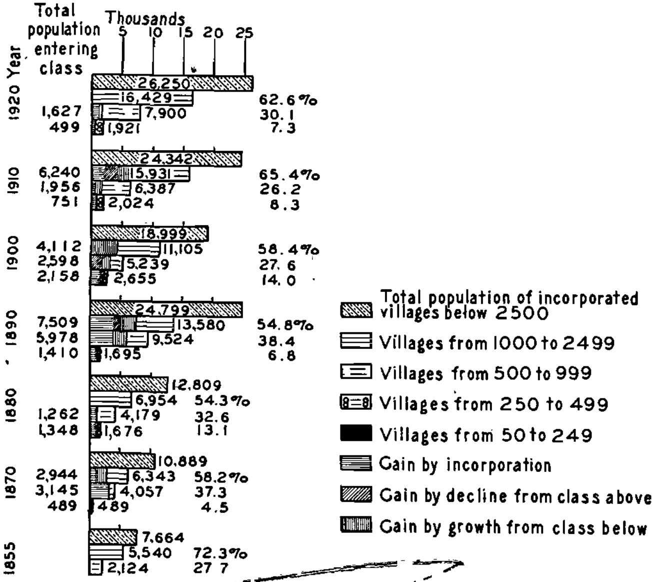


FIGURE 21. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES: TOTAL POPULATION OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, 1855 TO 1920, POPULATION IN CLASSES OF SAME AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND POPULATION ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

TABLE 18. PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VILLAGE POPULATION BY SECTIONS FOR EACH DECADE

Period	Urban counties	Farming counties	Suburban counties	Mountain counties
1910–1920	-2.6	+0.6	-2.6	+7.8
1900–1910	+3.5	-2.0	-8.3	+28.1
1890–1900	+8.1	+11.9	+59.3	-23.4
1880–1890	+10.3	+8.2	+29.9	+93.6
1870–1880	+46.2	+33.7	+0.9	+17.6
1855–1870	+9.5	+8.1	+9.5	+42.1

Trend for different classes of villages

In making an examination of the trend of population for the variously sized villages, the attempt is made to answer three questions. How did the number and the population in the different classes of villages shift from year to year? What percentage of the total village population belonged in the different classes of villages? What sized villages have shown the greatest gains, and at what periods of time?

Large villages, 1000 to 2499

New York State. Both the total number and the population of the large villages increased steadily from 1855 to 1910, but decreased slightly between 1910 and 1920; yet both numbers and population were fairly constant for 1900, 1910, and 1920 (table 12, figures 17 and 22). Moreover, the percentage of the total village population living in these villages remained fairly constant from year to year, being close to 66 per cent, which it was in 1920. At any given time approximately two-thirds of the village population lived in the large villages. The decades of the greatest percentage gain in population were 1870 to 1880 (34 per cent) and 1890 to 1900 (22.3 per cent), though a loss of 1.6 per cent occurred between 1910 and 1920 (table 19).

TABLE 19. PERCENTAGE INCREASE AND DECREASE OF POPULATION FOR THE LARGE VILLAGES, 1000 TO 2499, BY DECADES FOR THE STATE AND FOR THE SECTIONS

Period	New York State	Urban counties	Farming counties	Suburban counties	Mountain counties
1910–1920	-1.6	+1.9	-1.7	-11.1	+3.1
1900–1910	+0.5	+2.3	-2.2	-8.3	+43.5
1890–1900	+22.3	+12.9	+19.4	+96.0	-18.2
1880–1890	+10.1	+10.8	+3.2	+7.2	+95.3
1870–1880	+34.0	+44.2	+42.5	-5.8	+9.6
1855–1870	+0.8	+0.3	-2.3	+7.9	+14.5

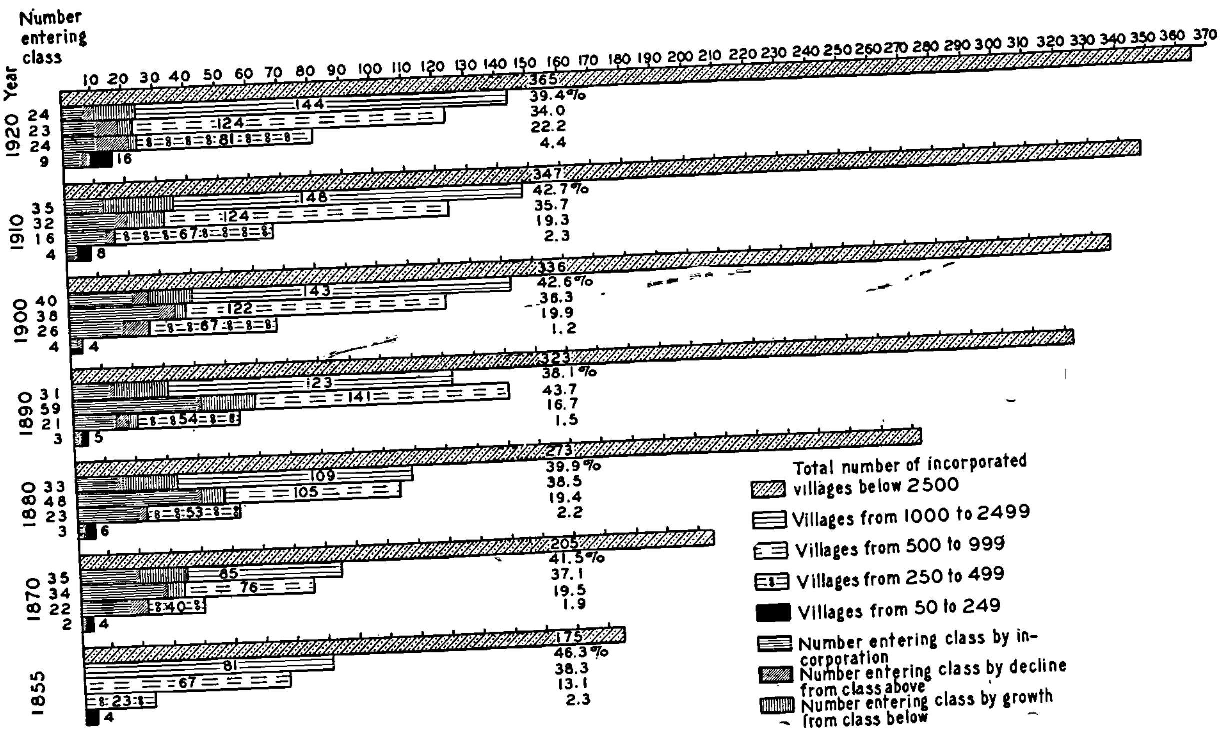


FIGURE 22. NEW YORK STATE: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND NUMBER ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

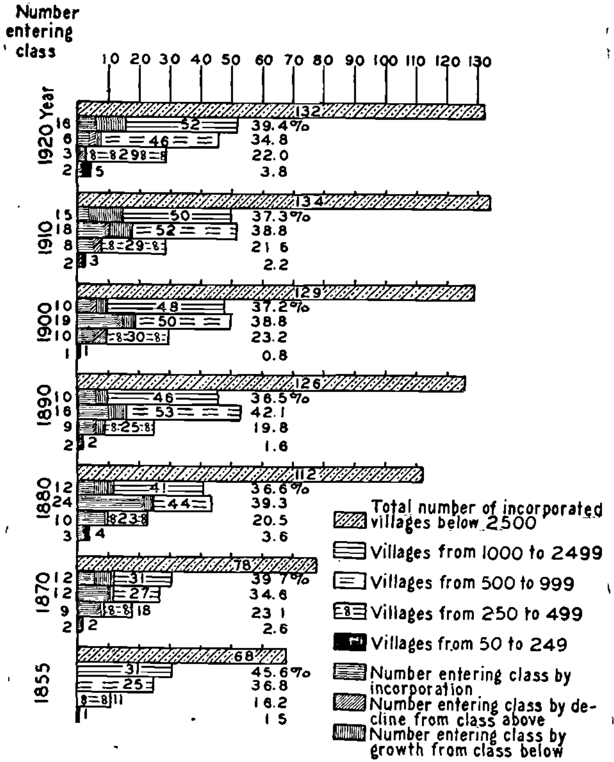


FIGURE 23. URBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND NUMBER ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

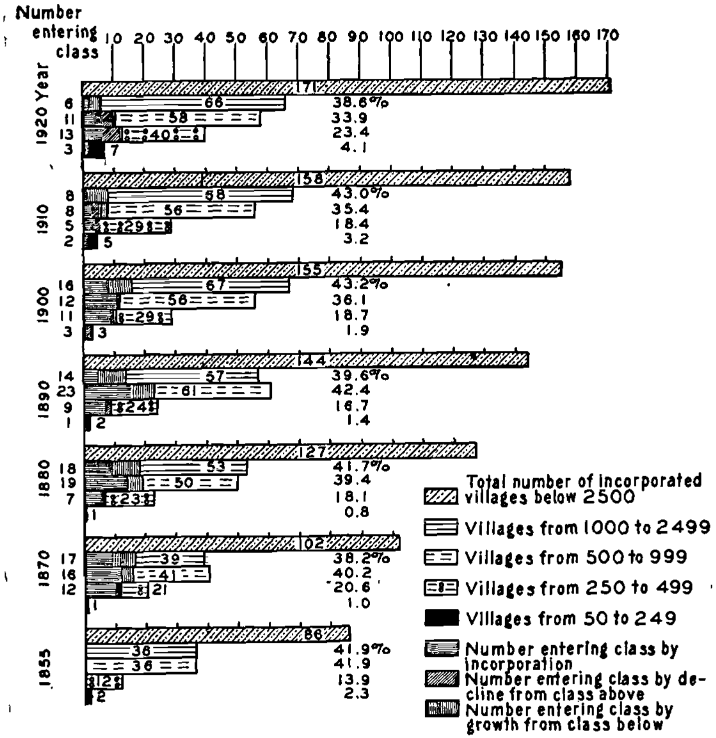


FIGURE 24. FARMING COUNTIES: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND NUMBER ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

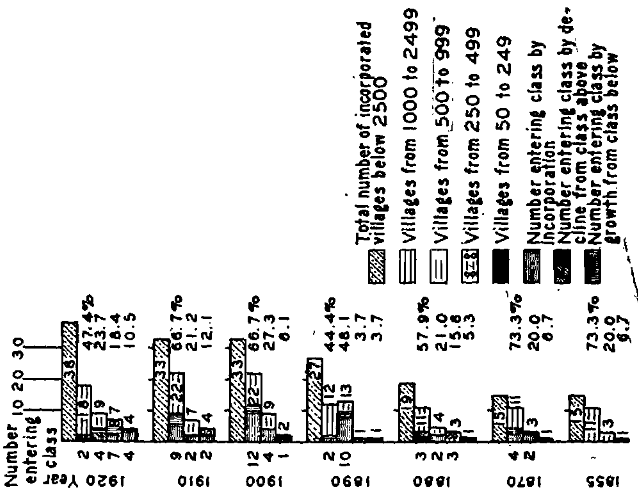


FIGURE 25. SUBURBAN COUNTIES: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND NUMBER ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

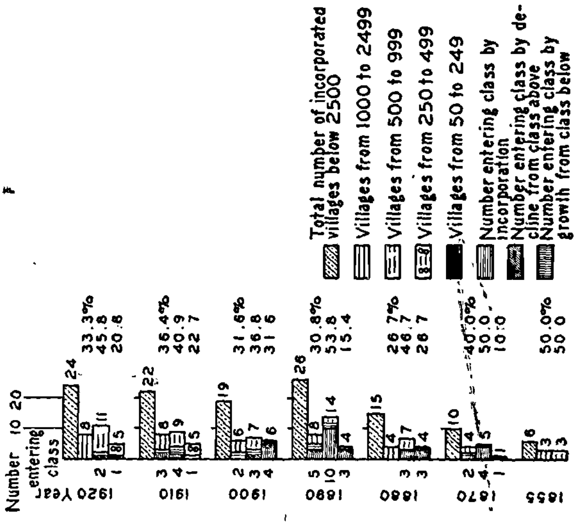


FIGURE 26. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHICH EACH CLASS CONSTITUTED, AND NUMBER ENTERING DIFFERENT CLASSES BY VARIOUS METHODS

Sections. The number and the population in the large villages of the urban counties grew from 1855 to 1920 (tables 14 and 19, figures 18 and 23). The decades of both greatest and least gain were the same as for the State. The proportion of the total village population belonging in these villages was a little less than two-thirds after 1855, varying from 60.2 per cent, the lowest, to 65.4 per cent, the highest. In numbers these villages formed a little less than 40 per cent of the total most of the time except in 1855.

The trend of the total population of the large villages in the farming counties, in contrast to the trend of the numbers of these villages, was characterized by erratic gains to 1900 and by subsequent slight declines (tables 15 and 19, figures 19 and 24). The percentage of the total village population which belonged in this class was rather stable; at no time did it drop below 60 per cent.

The trends of the large villages in the suburban counties fluctuated more violently than in the urban and the farming counties (tables 16 and 19, figures 20 and 25). Also, in this section the percentage of the total village population which belonged in the large villages was higher than in the urban and the farming counties.

By 1920, more people had come to live in the large villages in the mountain counties than at any other date (tables 17 and 19, figures 21 and 26). The percentage of the total village population found in these villages was generally lower than in any of the other counties, usually running below 60.

Major villages, 500 to 999

New York State. The maximum in numbers and in population of major villages was reached in 1890; the population declined steadily thereafter except for a slight increase in 1910, but the number became less only in the decade from 1890 to 1900, and remained practically stationary from 1910 to 1920 (table 12, figures 17 and 22). The percentage of the total village population in these villages was, throughout the entire period covered by this study, between 24.7 and 31.8. Thus, one might say that approximately one-fourth of the village population of the State belonged to the major villages. The percentages seem to indicate that these places lost in their relative importance with respect to the larger villages.

This last statement is borne out by an examination of the exact number of villages in the class. The number was 67 in 1855, had increased to 141 by 1890, but had decreased to 124 by 1920, reaching the lowest point after 1890, 122, in 1900.

Sections. In comparing this class of villages for the different sections of the State, a few facts stand out. These villages played a relatively greater part in the sections dominated by farming than in those influenced strongly by cities.

The relative places which the major villages occupied in the suburban counties varied greatly from those in the urban and the farming counties, as is shown by the percentage of the total village population which they possessed for the various years; this ranged from 9.4 per cent in 1855, to 30.1 per cent in 1890, the changes having been due to the influence of the cities.

The outstanding characteristics respecting these villages in the mountain counties were the great variations in numbers for the different census years, and the range in the proportion of the total village population that the class constituted, this being from 26.2 to 38.4 per cent.

Minor villages, 250 to 499

New York State. The minor villages did not play an important part in the total village population of the State, but they were of sufficient importance to deserve some attention. On the whole, their total population increased. The number grew steadily from 23 in 1855 to 81 in 1920, there having been no decline at any period. (Table 12, figures 17 and 22.)

Sections. In the urban counties the minor villages tended to play a lesser part in the totality of the village population, with the passing of time, than did the larger classes. For the farming and the suburban counties they appear to have increased in relative importance. In the mountain counties the percentage of the total village population in the minor villages was somewhat higher than in the other sections.

An inference regarding the relative functioning of the variously sized villages may be drawn on the basis of the population trends: namely, that the larger villages are the functional centers for the urban, the farming, and the suburban counties, but the smaller villages (250 to 499) are the most significant in the mountain counties.

Since the number of incorporated villages with a population below 250 was very small for all the census years, they are not discussed.

ANALYSIS OF VILLAGE GROWTH

The foregoing discussions have followed the general method used in analyzing the gain and the decline in the number of villages and in their population, and, as usual, have failed to take into account the fact that by their growth villages often push themselves out of certain classes and thus cause the class to lose in the totality of its population. The pages immediately following present an analysis of *how* classes of villages have gained and lost in population, and *how* villages have actually grown.[20]

The actual increase in number of villages

According to the figures already presented, the number of villages in New York increased from 175 in 1855 to 365 in 1920 (table 12). During this period, however, 108 ceased to be villages by becoming towns or cities, having a population greater than 2500 (table 20); 11 towns declined in population until they had less than 2500; many villages were incorporated, while others became unincorporated; some were incorporated within larger places; and in some instances two or more villages were consolidated.

The total number of villages in the urban counties was 68 in 1855 and 132 in 1920 (table 14). Between these two dates 43 villages became towns, and 3 towns became villages (table 21); 126 villages were incorporated; some became unincorporated; and others were reincorporated into larger places.

Similar shifting took place in the farming counties but to a less extent. The number of villages in the farming counties passed from 86 in 1855, to 171 in 1920 (table 15). Meanwhile, 39 villages had become towns and thus were lost to the villages, and 3 towns had decreased enough to become villages (table 22). There were 137 incorporated during these years, 11 became unincorporated, 2 were united into 1, and 1 was incorporated within a larger place. A comparison between the shifting of the villages in the urban and the farming counties shows that the villages tended to grow more rapidly in the urban counties. More villages became towns in the urban than in the farming counties.

In the suburban counties, from 1855 to 1920 the number of villages increased from 15 to 38 (table 16). Between these two dates, 22 villages became towns, 3 towns decreased sufficiently to become villages, and 47 villages were incorporated (table 23); a few became unincorporated. These figures indicate that the growth of the villages in the suburban counties was even greater proportionately than in either of the other two groups.

[20] *Gain* signifies the increase in a class from year to year, while *growth* indicates the actual increase that occurred in the place or places without reference to their passing into the larger class.

TABLE 20. NEW YORK STATE, NUMBER OF VILLAGES THAT ENTERED VARIOUS CLASSES, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE, BY DECADES

Period	Total entered by incorporation	Large villages, 1000 to 2499					Major villages, 500 to 999				Minor villages, 250 to 499				Small villages, 50 to 249		
		Number that became *towns*	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total	Entered class		Total
			By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	
1910–1920.....	32	20	7	3	14	24	10	8	5	23	10	10	4	24	5	4	9
1900–1910.....	40	24	11	1	23	35	15	4	13	32	12	4	..	16	2	2	4
1890–1900.....	66	12	20	3	17	40	28	5	5	38	17	8	1	26	1	3	4
1880–1890.....	67	15	14	1	16	31	39	2	18	59	13	5	3	21	1	2	3
1870–1880.....	74	8	14	2	17	33	39	1	8	48	19	3	1	23	2	1	3
1855–1870.....	61	29	18	1	16	35	27	2	5	34	15	6	1	22	1	1	2

… ENTERED VARIOUS CLASSES, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE, BY DECADES

Period	Total entered by incorporation	Large villages, 1000 to 2499: Number that became towns	Large villages: Entered class: By incorporation	Large villages: Entered class: From class above	Large villages: Entered class: From class below	Large villages: Total	Major villages, 500 to 999: Entered class: By incorporation	Major villages: Entered class: From class above	Major villages: Entered class: From class below	Major villages: Total	Minor villages, 250 to 499: Entered class: By incorporation	Minor villages: Entered class: From class above	Minor villages: Entered class: From class below	Minor villages: Total	Small villages, 50 to 249: Entered class: By incorporation	Small villages: Entered class: From class above	Small villages: Total
1910–1920	8	11	5	1	10	16	2	2	2	6	..	3	..	3	1	1	2
1900–1910	18	10	4	..	11	15	8	2	8	18	5	3	..	8	1	1	2
1890–1900	22	6	4	2	4	10	13	2	4	19	5	5	..	10	..	1	1
1880–1890	21	5	6	..	4	10	10	..	6	16	4	2	3	9	1	1	2
1870–1880	35	1	5	..	7	12	20	1	3	24	8	1	1	10	2	1	3
1855–1870	22	10	6	..	6	12	9	2	1	12	6	2	1	9	1	1	2

TABLE 22. FARMING COUNTIES, NUMBER OF VILLAGES THAT ENTERED VARIOUS CLASSES, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE, BY DECADES

Period	Total entered by incorporation	Large villages, 1000 to 2499: Number that became towns	Large villages: Entered class: By incorporation	Large villages: Entered class: From class above	Large villages: Entered class: From class below	Large villages: Total	Major villages, 500 to 999: Entered class: By incorporation	Major villages: Entered class: From class above	Major villages: Entered class: From class below	Major villages: Total	Minor villages, 250 to 499: Entered class: By incorporation	Minor villages: Entered class: From class above	Minor villages: Entered class: From class below	Minor villages: Total	Small villages, 50 to 249: Entered class: By incorporation	Small villages: Entered class: From class above	Small villages: Total
1910–1920	16	4	1	1	4	6	6	4	1	11	7	5	1	13	2	1	3
1900–1910	9	4	1	..	7	8	3	2	3	8	4	1	..	5	1	1	2
1890–1900	27	4	7	1	8	16	11	1	..	12	8	2	1	11	1	2	3
1880–1890	27	9	5	..	9	14	15	1	7	23	7	2	..	9	..	1	1
1870–1880	28	4	8	1	9	18	14	..	5	19	6	1	..	7	..	..	..
1855–1870	30	14	9	..	8	17	12	..	4	16	9	3	..	12	..	..	..

TABLE 23. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, NUMBER OF VILLAGES THAT ENTERED VARIOUS CLASSES, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE, BY DECADES

Period	Total entered by incorporation	Large villages, 1000 to 2499					Major villages, 500 to 999				Minor villages, 250 to 499				Small villages, 50 to 249		
		Number that became towns	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total	Entered class		Total
			By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	
1910–1920.....	6	5	1	1	..	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	3	7	2	2	4
1900–1910.....	9	9	5	..	4	9	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..
1890–1900.....	14	1	9	..	3	12	4	..	..	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
1880–1890.....	8	..	1	..	1	2	7	1	2	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1870–1880.....	6	3	1	1	1	3	2	..	..	2	3	..	..	3	..	..	..
1855–1870.....	4	4	2	1	1	4	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE 24. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, NUMBER OF VILLAGES THAT ENTERED VARIOUS CLASSES, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE, BY DECADES

Period	Total entered by incorporation	Large villages, 1000 to 2499					Major villages, 500 to 999				Minor villages, 250 to 499			
		Number that became towns	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total	Entered class			Total
			By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below		By incorporation	From class above	From class below	
1910–1920.................	2	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	2	1	....	....	1
1900–1910.................	4	1	1	1	1	3	2	....	2	4	1	....	....	1
1890–1900.................	3	1	....	....	2	2	....	2	1	3	3	1	....	4
1880–1890.................	11	1	2	1	2	5	7	....	3	10	2	1	....	3
1870–1880.................	5	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	3	2	1	....	3
1855–1870.................	5	1	1	....	1	2	4	....	....	4	....	1	....	1

For the mountain counties the number of villages increased from 6 to 24 in the years between 1855 and 1920 (table 17). During that time only 4 villages became large enough to be classed as towns, and 2 which were towns during one or two decades again became villages (table 24). There were 30 villages incorporated, and 10 became unincorporated. This growth in numbers indicates that most of the unincorporated villages were rather small at the beginning of the period and that much of the growth in village population was due to incorporation rather than to the establishment of new villages.

Loss of village population through growth

The large number of villages that became towns during the various periods necessarily carried a large population out of the several village classifications. Where tables 12 and 14 to 17 indicate a decline of total village population, when rightly interpreted they really signify, in most cases, a large growth. Between 1910 and 1920, 20 villages became towns (table 20) and their population was not counted in the total village population of 1920; yet in 1920 they had a population of 60,034 (table 25). If this population were added to the total (tables 12, 20, and 25) for 1920, the figures for 1920 would show a great gain. During this decade, 1910 to 1920, 32 villages were incorporated but they brought only 22,899 persons into the incorporated-village classification (tables 20 and 26). The same situation prevailed in most decades as for that from 1910 to 1920, except that in spite of this loss through growth the total population of the villages increased. Between 1900 and 1910, 24 villages became towns and by 1910 contained a total population of 72,299.

TABLE 25. NEW YORK STATE AND VARIOUS SECTIONS, LOSS OF VILLAGE POPULATION FOR EACH DECADE BY VILLAGES GROWING AND BECOMING TOWNS

Period	New York State	Urban counties	Farming counties	Suburban counties	Mountain counties
1910–1920	60,034	35,407	10,559	14,068	....
1900–1910	72,299	32,764	10,935	25,660	2,940
1890–1900	41,628	24,131	11,615	3,147	2,735
1880–1890	46,033	17,291	26,231	....	2,511
1870–1880	22,338	4,530	11,980	5,828	....
1855–1870	86,484	34,868	38,910	9,006	3,700

Obviously, such having been the case in the whole State it was prevalent in the various sections. In the urban counties 11 villages became towns between 1910 and 1920, and in 1920 had a total population of 35,407. A casual glance at table 14 would indicate that the villages

TABLE 26. NEW YORK STATE, POPULATION ENTERING EACH CLASS OF VILLAGES FOR EACH DECADE, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920	1900–1910	1890–1900	1880–1890	1870–1880	1855–1870
1000 to 2499	By incorporation	11,397	20,279	30,717	18,192	20,109	24,113
	By decline from class above	6,258	2,494	7,301	1,844	3,933	1,723
	By growth from class below	17,678	30,658	23,621	17,739	20,786	19,375
	Total	35,333	53,431	61,639	37,775	44,828	45,211
500 to 999	By incorporation	7,001	9,511	23,230	26,243	24,699	18,824
	By decline from class above	6,421	3,606	5,715	1,785	944	1,691
	By growth from class below	2,944	8,113	2,939	8,950	5,263	2,377
	Total	16,366	21,230	31,884	36,978	30,906	22,892
250 to 499	By incorporation	3,700	4,920	8,251	5,071	6,880	6,962
	By decline from class above	3,526	1,843	4,167	2,405	1,439	2,686
	By growth from class below	934	......	264	592	429	453
	Total	8,160	6,763	12,682	8,068	8,748	10,101
50 to 249	By incorporation	801	381	230	204	220	160
	By decline from class above	778	476	350	158	239	230
	Total	1,579	857	580	362	459	390

TABLE 27. URBAN COUNTIES, POPULATION ENTERING EACH CLASS OF VILLAGES FOR EACH DECADE, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920	1900–1910	1890–1900	1880–1890	1870–1880	1855–1870
1000 to 2499	By incorporation	7,648	7,979	9,640	6,562	7,750	6,235
	By decline from class above	2,469	......	4,933	......	......	......
	By growth from class below	13,369	14,662	6,970	4,833	9,474	6,488
	Total	23,486	22,641	21,543	11,395	17,224	12,723
500 to 999	By incorporation	1,651	5,067	12,634	7,616	11,003	6,281
	By decline from class above	1,802	1,743	2,914	......	944	1,691
	By growth from class below	1,106	5,085	2,193	2,138	3,143	580
	Total	4,559	11,895	17,741	9,754	15,090	8,552
250 to 499	By incorporation	......	2,114	3,544	2,207	2,208	3,014
	By decline from class above	956	1,384	2,268	983	473	969
	By growth from class below	......	......	......	592	429	453
	Total	956	3,498	5,812	3,782	3,110	4,436
50 to 249	By incorporation	227	169	......	204	220	160
	By decline from class above	240	245	117	......	239	230
	Total	467	414	117	204	459	390

of the urban counties lost during that decade, but if the 35,407 were added to the total for 1920 it would show that the apparent loss indicates a great gain in village population. Since the following paragraphs discuss how the various classes of village population actually grew rather than declined as the ordinary method of analyzing the

data would signify, no more space is necessary for consideration of the total village population.

Shifting between classes

The total population of any class of incorporated villages for any census year in comparison with a previous census year is composed of five groups: (1) those persons who were in the village one census year and remained and were counted the second year; (2) actual growth in population during the interim by births and by persons moving into the villages between the years, for those villages which are in the class at the beginning of the period; (3) previously unincorporated villages which have been incorporated into the class; (4) the decline of towns or villages which at the beginning of the period belonged to the class above but have declined; and (5) villages which were in the class below at the beginning of the period and have come into the class by increase of their population. These last three aspects of increase are of special importance here, since they show how elusive the usual figures are.

The real significance of the growth, decline, and incorporation of villages as they affect the population in different classes is well shown by a few examples. The large villages of the State (1000 to 2499) increased in numbers from 123 to 143, and in population from 189,228 to 231,521, between 1890 and 1900 (table 12). Within this decade 12 villages which were in the class in 1890 became towns, 3 which were towns in 1890 entered the class by decline, and 20 were incorporated (table 20). The population that entered this class by these shifts was 61,639, of which 30,717 came in by incorporation, 7301 by decline of towns, and 23,621 by growth of major villages into large villages (table 26).

The decline of the population in the major villages (500 to 999) of the farming counties between 1890 and 1900 furnishes another enlightening example of this shifting. The number dropped from 61 to 56, and the population from 43,448 to 40,951 (table 15), which is a result both of growth and of decline. During the period, 8 villages having a population of 8188 in 1900 grew out of the class, while 2 declined to below 500, having a total population of only 958 (tables 22 and 28). By the 10 villages leaving the class there was a loss of 9146 persons, and at the same time 12 villages came in with a population of 8700. Also, 7 villages which had a population of 4924 in 1890 became unincorporated during the decade. Thus, when these figures are compared the fact emerges that the decline, figured on the usual basis, was due more to growth than to decrease in population.

The total population of the State found in the large villages (1000 to 2499) and the major villages (500 to 999) remained almost constant

TABLE 28. FARMING COUNTIES, POPULATION ENTERING EACH CLASS OF VILLAGES FOR EACH DECADE, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920	1900–1910	1890–1900	1880–1890	1870–1880	1855–1870
1000 to 2499	By incorporation	1,329	1,286	7,140	6,447	11,209	12,943
	By decline from class above	2,356	......	2,368	......	1,822	......
	By growth from class below	4,309	8,063	8,188	9,694	10,269	9,837
	Total	7,994	9,349	17,696	16,141	23,300	22,780
500 to 999	By incorporation	2,941	2,087	7,751	9,926	11,246	8,470
	By decline from class above	3,411	1,863	949	822	......	......
	By growth from class below	541	1,764	......	3,675	2,120	1,797
	Total	6,893	5,714	8,700	14,423	13,366	10,267
250 to 499	By incorporation	2,669	1,339	2,765	1,944	2,715	3,948
	By decline from class above	1,809	459	958	932	487	1,228
	By growth from class below	276	......	264	......	......	......
	Total	4,754	1,798	3,987	2,876	3,202	5,176
50 to 249	By incorporation	179	212	230	......	......	......
	By decline from class above	219	231	233	158	......	......
	Total	398	443	463	158	......	......

for 1900, 1910, and 1920. This constancy was due not to a lack of growth in these classes of villages, but to the fact that as some grew too large to remain in the class others grew into the class. Of the large villages in 1910, 20 had become towns (2500 to 4999) by 1920, and of the major class in 1910, 14 were in the large class in 1920 (table 20). Thus, 35,333 persons had entered the class of large villages by 1920, of which approximately one-half, or 17,678, came by virtue of the growth of 14 villages which entered from the class below (table 26).

Another example of how an apparent decline in a class really indicates a growth is found in the data on the large and the major villages in the suburban counties (tables 16, 23, and 29). In these counties there were 22 large villages in both 1900 and 1910, but a smaller total population in the latter year. During the decade 9 villages became towns, 5 others of this size were incorporated, and 4 grew into the class from the class below, the major class. The population that came into the large-village class by growth from the major villages and by incorporation was not sufficient to replace the loss that resulted by the 9 villages growing out of the class. At the same time, the population of the major villages became small due to the growth of 4 out of the class, and only 2 took their place by incorporation or by growth from below.

The same type of shifting occurred in all sections and classes and for most of the decades; but enough has been said to show that the

TABLE 29. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, POPULATION ENTERING EACH CLASS OF VILLAGES FOR EACH DECADE, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920	1900–1910	1890–1900	1880–1890	1870–1880	1855–1870
1000 to 2499	By incorporation	2,420	9,332	13,937	1,706	1,150	3,787
	By decline from class above	1,433	......	......	......	2,111	1,723
	By growth from class below	......	5,869	4,351	1,024	1,043	1,254
	Total	3,853	15,201	18,288	2,730	4,304	6,764
500 to 999	By incorporation	1,465	1,665	2,845	4,628	1,188	928
	By decline from class above	1,208	......	......	963	......	......
	By growth from class below	614	......	......	1,232	......	......
	Total	3,287	1,665	2,845	6,823	1,188	928
250 to 499	By incorporation	532	716	725	......	1,088	......
	By decline from class above	761	......	......	......	......	......
	By growth from class below	658	......	......	......	......	......
	Total	1,951	716	725	......	1,088	......
50 to 249	By incorporation	395	......	......	......	......	......
	By decline from class above	319	......	......	......	......	......
	Total	714	......	......	......	......	......

TABLE 30. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, POPULATION ENTERING EACH CLASS OF VILLAGES FOR EACH DECADE, AND METHOD OF ENTRANCE

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920	1900–1910	1890–1900	1880–1890	1870–1880	1855–1870
1000 to 2499	By incorporation	......	1,682	......	3,477	......	1,148
	By decline from class above	......	2,494	......	1,844	......	......
	By growth from class below	......	2,064	4,112	2,188	......	1,796
	Total	......	6,240	4,112	7,509	......	2,944
500 to 999	By incorporation	944	692	......	4,073	1,262	3,145
	By decline from class above	......	......	1,852	......	......	......
	By growth from class below	683	1,264	746	1,905	......	......
	Total	1,627	1,956	2,598	5,978	1,262	3,145
250 to 499	By incorporation	499	751	1,217	920	869	......
	By decline from class above	......	......	941	490	479	489
	By growth from class below	......	......	......	......	......	......
	Total	499	751	2,158	1,410	1,348	489
50 to 249	By incorporation	......	......	......	......	......	......
	By decline from class above	......	......	......	......	......	......
	Total	......	......	......	......	......	......

census reports of totality in village growth and decline are not sufficiently explicit and are often misleading. The paragraphs which immediately follow go further in helping to determine what is actually taking place respecting village growth and decline in New York.

The actual growth in village population by decades

The foregoing discussion has shown that village population actually grew, and by virtue of that fact the total village population of the State and of classes in various sections sometimes lost. It is deemed necessary, however, to analyze more fully the method and the time of actual population increase, which includes increase by incorporation and by actual growth. Accordingly these two methods are examined here by decades and no attention is paid to shifting between classes.

New York State

The total village-population increase by actual growth and incorporation in each decade during all the time covered in the study, and the percentage increase, was generally high (table 31). The time of the lowest relative increase, 15.1 per cent, was between 1910 and 1920; the greatest, 58 per cent, was between 1855 and 1870. No relationship prevailed between the proportion of increase by incorporation and by actual growth. The greatest total percentage of increase, 58 per cent, was from 1855 to 1870, with 27.5 per cent increase by incorporation and 30.5 per cent by actual growth. The two high points of actual growth in the population of those villages that were already incorporated at the beginning of the period, were the decades 1880 to 1890 and 1900 to 1910, the rates being 21.8 and 16.3 per cent, respectively; the time of the least actual increase, 5.3 per cent, was from 1890 to 1900.

The large and the major villages (1000 to 2499 and 500 to 999) showed the greatest gains. At no time was there a decrease in population for either of these classes, except for the major villages from 1890 to 1900. This decrease was due not to a decline in population, but to the fact that a large number of these villages became unincorporated during the decade and this made it impossible to include their population in the count for 1900. The large villages had a higher percentage increase, as a rule, than the major villages.

The minor and the small villages (250 to 499 and 50 to 249) showed different tendencies from those in the larger classes, for the State as a whole. Except for the first period of the study, the larger of these two classes showed only slight gains or actual losses. At every period incorporation of villages into this class occurred, which made for considerable increase for the total, but the actual growth was slight. It appears that places of these sizes have often had a tendency to decline if they did not increase rather rapidly. On the other hand, many of these villages apparently found their place and have been holding their own. The generalizations for the minor villages hold for the small villages, except that the tendency to decline was greater in the small places.

TABLE 31. NEW YORK STATE, INCREASE BY INCORPORATION AND GROWTH FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VILLAGES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PLACES HAVING PASSED INTO ANOTHER CLASS

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920		1900–1910		1890–1900		1880–1890		1870–1880		1855–1870	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All villages	Incorporation and growth	54,348	15.1	92,257	26.6	77,096	25.5	109,677	40.8	85,013	42.3	105,776	58.0
	Incorporation	22,899	6.3	35,091	10.3	62,428	20.2	49,710	19.1	51,908	25.9	50,059	27.5
	Growth	31,449	8.8	57,166	16.3	14,668	5.3	59,967	21.8	33,105	16.4	55,717	30.5
1000 to 2499	Incorporation and growth	41,257	.....	58,621	.....	58,714	.....	70,659	.....	42,193	.....	68,097	.....
	Incorporation	11,397	.....	20,279	.....	30,717	.....	18,192	.....	20,109	.....	24,113	.....
	Growth	29,860	12.8	38,342	16.2	27,997	14.2	52,467	30.5	22,084	17.2	43,984	34.6
500 to 999	Incorporation and growth	9,701	.....	26,737	.....	12,962	.....	33,784	.....	33,920	.....	28,126	.....
	Incorporation	7,001	.....	9,511	.....	23,230	.....	26,243	.....	24,699	.....	18,824	.....
	Growth	2,700	3.0	17,226	19.7	-10,268	-10.4*	7,541	9.2	9,221	16.3	9,302	20.1
250 to 499	Incorporation and growth	2,711	.....	6,530	.....	5,084	.....	5,105	.....	8,187	.....	9,100	.....
	Incorporation	3,700	.....	4,920	.....	8,251	.....	5,071	.....	6,880	.....	6,962	.....
	Growth	-989	-3.8	1,610	6.2	-3,167	-1.5	34	0.1	1,307	8.4	2,138	26.4
50 to 249	Incorporation and growth	679	.....	369	.....	336	.....	129	.....	713	.....	453	.....
	Incorporation	801	.....	381	.....	230	.....	204	.....	220	.....	160	.....
	Growth	-122	-7.3	-12	-1.4	106	7.3	-75	-5.9	493	68.0	293	40.3

* Though this is an apparent decline it probably is not an actual one, as a number of villages became unincorporated between 1890 and 1900 and this made it impossible to determine their population for 1900.

Sections

A few comparisons of the population growth between sections without reference to the gains by incorporation, show a few outstanding facts. The urban counties (table 32) had very high growth for most periods. Aside from the first fifteen years, in which the total village population grew over 40 per cent, the two decades 1880 to 1890 and 1900 to 1910 had the greatest growth, with 35.5 and 33.3 per cent, respectively. The time of the least growth was from 1890 to 1900. The growth for each decade in the total village population of the farming counties (table 33) was small, and each successive decade was marked by a lessening rate; the villages in these counties grew, but not rapidly. In the suburban counties (table 34), growth for each decade was much greater after 1890 than previously. During the decade 1890 to 1900, when the rate of growth in the total village population in the farming counties began to decline, the suburban county villages began the most rapid growth. In the mountain counties (table 35) the decade of greatest growth was 1880 to 1890.

When the statistics regarding the population that became incorporated are compared with the actual growth, there are certain general conclusions that may be drawn. Up to 1890 the rate of increase by incorporation was high in the urban and the farming counties, but was small in the suburban and fluctuating in the mountain counties. Prior to 1890, general influences seem to have acted on the villages of the whole State and determined their growth; but by 1890 the development of cities had begun to exert a special force. New York City had begun to send its population into the suburban territory even prior to 1890, but the remainder of the State continued very largely subject to the influences that came through the farming conditions. By 1900 the other cities of the State had also begun to send their population into the surrounding villages, which caused the villages in the urban counties to increase during the last two decades included in the study, and those of the farming counties to remain almost stable. However, the total village population in the farming counties has not declined but has increased somewhat.[21] This is a very interesting fact in view of the decline that has taken place in the farm population.

In all sections and for all periods except 1880 to 1890 in the suburban counties and 1890 to 1900 in the mountain counties, the total population of the large villages (1000 to 2499) increased. In no decade was the rate in the urban counties below 20 per cent except from 1870 to 1880, when it was 17.4 per cent. The rate of increase for these villages in the farming counties decreased consistently from 24.6 per cent from 1855 to 1870, to 1.1 per cent from 1900 to 1910; but from 1910 to 1920

[21] An excellent illustration of the shifting of villages is shown in maps on page 42 of the Report of the Commission on Housing and Regional Planning for New York State, 1926.

TABLE 32. URBAN COUNTIES, INCREASE BY INCORPORATION AND GROWTH FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VILLAGES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PLACES HAVING PASSED INTO ANOTHER CLASS

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920 Number	1910–1920 Per cent	1900–1910 Number	1900–1910 Per cent	1890–1900 Number	1890–1900 Per cent	1880–1890 Number	1880–1890 Per cent	1870–1880 Number	1870–1880 Per cent	1855–1870 Number	1855–1870 Per cent
All villages	Incorporation and growth	32,074	.....	56,880	.....	32,545	.....	53,568	.....	36,567	.....	42,519	.....
	Incorporation	9,526	.....	15,329	.....	25,818	.....	16,589	.....	21,181	.....	15,690	.....
	Growth	22,548	17.4	41,551	33.3	6,727	5.8	36,970	35.5	15,386	21.5	26,829	40.9
1000 to 2499	Incorporation and growth	25,416	.....	36,342	.....	24,150	.....	44,249	.....	15,283	.....	30,208	.....
	Incorporation	7,648	.....	7,979	.....	9,640	.....	6,562	.....	7,750	.....	6,235	.....
	Growth	17,768	21.4	28,363	36.0	14,510	20.7	37,687	59.9	7,533	17.4	23,973	55.1
500 to 999	Incorporation and growth	7,259	.....	16,208	.....	6,001	.....	9,170	.....	17,164	.....	7,406	.....
	Incorporation	1,651	.....	5,067	.....	12,634	.....	7,616	.....	11,003	.....	6,281	.....
	Growth	5,608	15.3	11,141	32.2	-6,633	-18.2*	1,554	4.0	6,161	30.7	1,125	6.4
250 to 499	Incorporation and growth	-733	.....	4,230	.....	2,394	.....	15	.....	3,417	.....	4,442	.....
	Incorporation	0	.....	2,114	.....	3,544	.....	2,207	.....	2,208	.....	3,014	.....
	Growth	-733	-6.4	2,116	18.5	-1,150	-13.0	-2,192	-23.2	1,209	16.2	1,428	37.2
50 to 249	Incorporation and growth	132	.....	100	.....	......	.....	134	.....	703	.....	463	.....
	Incorporation	227	.....	169	.....	......	.....	204	.....	220	.....	160	.....
	Growth	-95	-1.8	-69	-38.3	......	.....	-70	-7.7	483	12.4	303	15.5

* Though this is an apparent decline it probably is not an actual one, as a number of villages became unincorporated between 1890 and 1900 and this made it impossible to determine their population for 1900.

TABLE 33. FARMING COUNTIES, INCREASE BY INCORPORATION AND GROWTH FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VILLAGES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PLACES HAVING PASSED INTO ANOTHER CLASS

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920		1900–1910		1890–1900		1880–1890		1870–1880		1855–1870	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All villages	Incorporation and growth	9,016	.....	7,794	.....	26,729	.....	36,768	.....	42,600	.....	47,114	.....
	Incorporation	7,118	.....	4,924	.....	17,886	.....	18,317	.....	25,170	.....	25,361	.....
	Growth	1,898	1.4	2,870	1.8	8,843	6.3	18,451	14.2	17,430	18.1	21,753	24.4
1000 to 2499	Incorporation and growth	5,452	.....	2,502	.....	18,731	.....	20,036	.....	24,755	.....	27,720	.....
	Incorporation	1,329	.....	1,286	.....	7,140	.....	6,447	.....	11,209	.....	12,943	.....
	Growth	4,123	4.1	1,216	1.1	11,591	13.4	13,589	16.2	13,546	23.1	14,777	24.6
500 to 999	Incorporation and growth	1,073	.....	4,031	.....	6,600	.....	13,561	.....	14,871	.....	14,736	.....
	Incorporation	2,941	.....	2,087	.....	7,751	.....	9,926	.....	11,246	.....	8,470	.....
	Growth	-1,868	-4.6	1,944	4.7	-1,151	-2.8*	3,635	10.0	3,625	12.1	6,266	25.6
250 to 499	Incorporation and growth	2,339	.....	992	.....	1,062	.....	3,196	.....	2,974	.....	4,658	.....
	Incorporation	2,669	.....	1,339	.....	2,765	.....	1,944	.....	2,715	.....	3,948	.....
	Growth	-330	-3.0	-347	-3.0	-1,703	-15.0	1,252	10.2	259	3.3	710	16.5
50 to 249	Incorporation and growth	152	.....	269	.....	336	.....	-25	.....	......	.....	......	.....
	Incorporation	179	.....	212	.....	230	31.6	0	.....	......	.....	......	.....
	Growth	-27	-2.3	57	7.0	106	.....	-25	-12.3	......	.....	......	.....

* Though this is an apparent decline it probably is not an actual one, as a number of villages became unincorporated between 1890 and 1900 and this made it impossible to determine their population for 1900.

TABLE 34 UBURBAN COUNTIES, INCREASE BY INCORPORATION AND GROWTH FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VILLAGES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PLACES HAVING PASSED INTO ANOTHER CLASS

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920		1900–1910		1890–1900		1880–1890		1870–1880		1855–1870	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All villages	Incorporation and growth	11,350	.....	21,794	.....	20,887	.....	6,684	.....	3,926	.....	9,218	.....
	Incorporation	4,812	.....	11,713	.....	17,507	.....	6,334	.....	3,426	.....	4,715	.....
	Growth	6,538	15.3	10,081	20.4	3,380	11.6	350	1.4	500	2.2	4,503	22.1
1000 to 2499	Incorporation and growth	9,891	.....	16,569	.....	17,833	.....	1,269	.....	1,544	.....	7,462	.....
	Incorporation	2,420	.....	9,332	.....	13,937	.....	1,706	.....	1,150	.....	3,787	.....
	Growth	7,471	20.9	7,237	18.6	3,896	21.0	–437	–2.0	394	2.0	3,675	21.4
500 to 999	Incorporation and growth	539	.....	4,550	.....	2,191	.....	4,935	.....	1,284	.....	1,766	.....
	Incorporation	1,465	.....	1,665	.....	2,845	.....	4,628	.....	1,188	.....	928	.....
	Growth	–926	–17.5	2,885	43.6	–654	–7.4*	307	11.5	96	2.9	838	43.3
250 to 499	Incorporation and growth	525	.....	675	.....	863	.....	460	.....	1,088	.....	......	.....
	Incorporation	532	.....	716	.....	725	.....	0	.....	1,088	.....	......	.....
	Growth	–7	–0.4	–41	–4.5	138	43.6	460	.....	0	.....	......	.....
50 to 249	Incorporation and growth	395	.....	......	.....	......	.....	20	.....	10	.....	–10	.....
	Incorporation	395	.....	......	.....	......	.....	0	.....	0	.....	0	.....
	Growth	0	.....	......	.....	......	.....	20	12.5	10	6.6	–10	–6.2

* Though this is an apparent decline it *probably* is not an actual one, as a number of villages became *unincorporated* between 1890 and 1900 and this made *it impossible* to determine their population for 1900.

TABLE 35. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, INCREASE BY INCORPORATION AND GROWTH FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VILLAGES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PLACES HAVING PASSED INTO ANOTHER CLASS

Size of villages	Method of gain	1910–1920		1900–1910		1890–1900		1880–1890		1870–1880		1855–1870	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All villages	Incorporation and growth	1,908	.....	5,789	.....	-3,065	.....	12,657	.....	1,920	.....	6,925	.....
	Incorporation	1,443	.....	3,125	.....	1,217	.....	8,470	.....	2,131	.....	4,293	.....
	Growth	465	1.8	2,664	14.0	-4,282	-17.2	4,187	32.7	-211	-1.0	2,632	34.3
1000 to 2499	Incorporation and growth	498	.....	3,208	.....	-2,000	.....	5,105	.....	611	.....	2,707	.....
	Incorporation	0	.....	1,682	.....	0	.....	3,477	.....	0	.....	1,148	.....
	Growth	498	3.0	1,526	13.6	-2,000	-14.7	1,628	23.4	611	9.6	1,559	28.1
500 to 999	Incorporation and growth	830	.....	1,948	.....	-1,830	.....	6,118	.....	601	.....	4,218	.....
	Incorporation	944	.....	692	.....	0	.....	4,073	.....	1,262	.....	3,145	.....
	Growth	-114	-1.7	1,256	23.9	-1,830	-19.2*	2,045	48.9	-661	-16.2	1,073	30.5
250 to 499	Incorporation and growth	580	.....	633	.....	765	.....	1,434	.....	708	.....	......	.....
	Incorporation	499	.....	751	.....	1,217	.....	920	.....	869	.....	......	.....
	Growth	81	3.5	-118	-4.4	-452	-26.6	514	30.6	-161	-32.9	......	.....
50 to 249	Incorporation and growth	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....
	Incorporation	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....
	Growth	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....	......	.....

* Though this is an apparent decline it probably is *not* an actual one, as a number of villages became unincorporated between 1890 and 1900 and this made it impossible to determine their population for 1900.

it was 4.1 per cent. The rate of increase was high in the suburban counties after 1890.

After 1890 the population in the major villages (500 to 999) increased in the urban but not in the farming counties. Apparently these major villages in the farming counties gradually reacted to the movement of the farm population and actually decreased in population between 1910 and 1920. The major villages of the suburban and the mountain counties declined between 1910 and 1920, the same as did those in the farming counties. This was probably due to the decline of the farm population in these counties, as the villages formerly depended on that population.

Incorporation of villages

The decade which was marked by the greatest number, 74, of incorporations in New York State, was that from 1870 to 1880; and the two succeeding decades had 67 and 66, respectively. The 66 villages in the decade 1890 to 1900 carried more population into the incorporated-village population than did the 74 in the decade 1870 to 1880. From year to year between 1855 and 1900 the tendency was for the villages to become larger before incorporation, but from 1900 to 1920 the reverse prevailed.

A comparison of sections offers the best criterion for a further analysis. Of the 74 incorporations between 1870 and 1880, 35 were in the urban counties, 28 in the farming counties, 6 in the suburban counties, and 5 in the mountain counties. Relatively the mountain counties had the greatest number of any sections between 1880 and 1890, but between 1890 and 1900 the suburban had the greatest number. The farming counties, also, ran high between 1880 and 1890.

The differences in the sizes of the villages in the census year following the time of incorporation seem to give some information as to the reason for the variations in the various sections in the number of incorporations. Up to 1900 the most frequent incorporations were of villages between 500 and 999. Almost as many in the 250-to-499 class as in the 500-to-999 class were incorporated between 1900 and 1910, and more between 1910 and 1920. This predominance in numbers of smaller places was due largely to the tendency of the villages in the farming counties to incorporate.

This incorporation of the minor and the small villages in farming counties is a somewhat striking phenomenon. The tendency for incorporation was probably the manifestation of an attempt of the people in these places to make certain improvements. It is a tendency toward a higher standard of village life which cannot be attained so readily without the rights accorded by the powers granted under incorporation. Also, within the last two decades covered by this study, the smaller places have probably incorporated in order to compete with the larger

ones. A much larger proportion of the places are incorporated in some counties than in others.

The villages tended to become larger in the urban and the suburban counties than in the farming counties before they incorporated. During the decade 1910 to 1920, 8 villages of the urban counties were incorporated, 5 of these being in the 1000-to-2499 class. In the suburban counties many places became towns, and some even cities, before incorporation. In fact, two places, one between 2500 and 4999 and one between 5000 and 9999, were incorporated in the last decade herein considered. At the same time one place with a population above 10,000, one between 5000 and 10,000, and one between 2500 and 4999, were incorporated in the urban counties.

Villages becoming unincorporated

Besides the actual decline in the population of individual incorporated villages, loss occurred during a few decades for the total incorporated-village population by two methods — the incorporation of the incorporated villages into larger places, and the unincorporation of incorporated villages. The first process, that of combination of two or more places, may occur for villages, towns, or even cities, of any size. Several examples of the uniting of larger places have occurred during the time covered by this study. In most cases they are here thrown together for the entire period, and considered as one city. In the urban counties, between 1880 and 1890 and between 1900 and 1910 two towns in the 2500-to-4999 class lost their identity by being taken into other classes. A large number of villages have been incorporated into the larger places. Two of the large villages (1000 to 2499) thus lost their own identity in each decade between 1870 and 1900, and three between 1900 and 1910. All this occurred in the urban counties, except one in the farming counties between 1900 and 1910. Between 1890 and 1900 two large villages of this size became unincorporated — one in a farming and one in a suburban county.

The unincorporation of villages was especially prevalent with the major villages (500 to 999). The three decades that are especially characterized by this phenomenon were 1870 to 1880, 1880 to 1890, and 1890 to 1900, with 5, 7, and 32 villages, respectively. Similarly, a large number of minor and small places became unincorporated between 1890 and 1900. The unincorporation of villages prevailed in all sections. Some of these have again become incorporated, while others have not.

The various laws regarding incorporation of villages seem to have had some influence in this regard. Prior to 1846 all villages and cities were incorporated by special acts of the Legislature. The constitution of 1846 provided a general law by which villages *could* become incorporated but the Legislature *could* continue to incorporate by special acts.

This it continued to do until in 1874 a law was passed which required all incorporations to take place under a general village law but permitted villages to retain the form of incorporation that had been given earlier. It seems probable that some villages became unincorporated in order to reincorporate under the general law. Also, it may be that others became unincorporated in order to escape from special burdens, and remained unincorporated.

UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Unincorporated towns and villages[22] are usually neglected in statistics on rural population, and yet they form important parts in the rural-population structure. In this study it was impossible to trace the shifting in the unincorporated-town and -village populations for the different years, since information prior to 1920 was insufficient.

New York State

According to the data, there were 1446 unincorporated towns and villages in New York, with a population totaling more than 480,000, in 1920 (table 36). Of these, 28 had a population of 2500 or more; 22 of these, with a population between 2500 and 5000, had a total of 60,095, and 6, with a population of 5000 or more, had a total of 43,500. These large towns were the resultants of the "spill-over" from the cities, as is shown by their suburban location (figure 35, pages 86 and 87). Indeed the 6 largest (5000 and above), as well as 19 of the next lower size (2500 to 4999), were situated in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. All unincorporated towns except two, which were in the urban counties, were in the suburban counties.[23]

In spite of these large unincorporated towns and villages, the bulk of the villages were below 500 in population. In fact, to the two classes below this figure belonged 85.2 per cent of all, 65.2 per cent being in the smallest group, 50 to 249, and 20 per cent in the other group, 250 to 499. However, in the small villages only 24.4 per cent of the total unincorporated-town and -village population was found, and in the minor villages (250 to 499) only 20 per cent. The number of large villages was rather small, there being only 48, but they possessed 13.5 per cent of this total unincorporated-town and -village population.

Sections

The various sections differed greatly in the distribution of villages of different sizes. Of the 48 large villages (1000 to 2499), 23 were in the

[22] "Village," as used in this division, refers to unincorporated villages unless otherwise specified. The discussion here is on the basis of the 1920 population.
[23] The same classification of towns and villages is used for the unincorporated places as was used for the incorporated villages.

TABLE 36. NEW YORK STATE AND VARIOUS SECTIONS, NUMBER AND POPULATION OF THE UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES, WITH PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL IN BOTH NUMBERS AND POPULATION, BY CLASSES, FOR 1920

Size of places		Urban counties	Per cent of total	Farming counties	Per cent of total	Suburban counties	Per cent of total	Mountain counties	Per cent of total	Total for State	Per cent of total
5000 and above....	Number....	....	....	....	....	6	2.4	....	....	6	0.4
	Population..	....	....	....	....	43,500	21.1	....	....	43,500	9.0
2500 to 4999......	Number....	2	0.4	....	....	20	7.9	....	....	22	1.5
	Population..	7,663	6.3	....	....	52,432	25.4	....	....	60,095	12.4
1000 to 2499......	Number....	18	3.9	3	0.5	23	9.1	4	2.5	48	3.3
	Population..	22,274	18.4	3,900	3.3	34,900	16.9	4,500	11.5	65,574	13.5
500 to 999........	Number....	37	8.1	38	6.6	46	18.2	16	10.1	137	9.5
	Population..	25,418	21.0	24,299	20.8	39,812	19.3	10,162	26.0	99,691	20.6
250 to 499........	Number....	74	16.1	116	20.1	63	24.9	37	23.4	290	20.0
	Population..	25,476	21.0	37,275	31.8	22,089	10.7	12,044	30.8	96,884	20.0
50 to 249.........	Number....	328	71.5	419	72.7	95	37.5	101	63.9	943	65.2
	Population..	40,438	33.3	51,545	44.0	13,721	6.6	12,429	31.8	118,133	24.4
Total.........	Number....	459	....	576	....	253	....	158	....	1,446	....
	Population..	121,269	....	117,019	....	206,454	....	39,135	....	483,877	....

suburban, 18 in the urban, 3 in the farming, and 4 in the mountain counties. The 23 large villages in the suburban counties contained more than half of the State's unincorporated-large-village population.

The major villages (500 to 999) were distributed somewhat differently from the large villages, in both numbers and population. The suburban counties contained more than any other section, having a few more than the urban and the farming counties. The proportion of the total unincorporated-town and -village population belonging in these villages did not differ greatly for the various sections, being approximately 20 per cent, except in the mountain counties where it was 26 per cent. As the villages become smaller they become relatively much more important in all the counties except the suburban, where they become of less significance.

This last statement is illustrated by an examination of the two classes below 500 in population. In the farming counties more than 70 per cent of the unincorporated villages were in the smallest class (50 to 249), and in these lived 44 per cent of the total unincorporated-village population. In the suburban counties the small villages constituted only 37.5 per cent of the total number of unincorporated towns and villages, and in them lived only 6.6 per cent of the unincorporated-town and -village population. In the urban counties more than 70 per cent of the villages were in the small-village class but to them belonged only 33.3 per cent of this total population. For the mountain counties the percentages for these two items were 63.9 and 31.8, respectively.

The suburban and the farming counties present an interesting contrast for the minor villages (250 to 499). In the former, 24.9 per cent of the total number were in the group but they contained a little less than 11 per cent of the total unincorporated-town and -village population; in the latter, only 20.1 per cent of the villages were in this class, but they contained nearly 32 per cent of the total unincorporated-village population. In these two respects the urban and the mountain counties stood between these two extremes.

A similar contrast between sections existed for the small villages (50 to 249). In the suburban counties 37.5 per cent of the number of villages were in this class, but these villages contained only 6.6 per cent of the total unincorporated-town and -village population; while in the farming counties were found 72.7 per cent of the total number of villages, which contained 44 per cent of the total unincorporated-village population.

INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES

The material presented in the foregoing discussion on the incorporated and the unincorporated villages is sufficient to indicate the significance of both, but to complete the study a comparison of the two is here made.

Numbers

New York State

In 1920 New York contained 1783 villages, of which 79.5 per cent, or approximately four-fifths, were unincorporated and only 20.5 per cent, or one-fifth, were incorporated (table 37). This preponderance of the unincorporated villages was due to the exceedingly large number of the smaller classes, as 98.3 per cent of those in the smallest class (50 to 249) were unincorporated. On the other hand, three-fourths of the large villages (1000 to 2499) were incorporated. Of the major (500 to 999) and the minor (250 to 499) villages, approximately one-half (52.5 per cent) of the former were unincorporated, and more than three-fourths (78.2 per cent) of the latter

TABLE 37. NEW YORK STATE, DISTRIBUTION IN NUMBERS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

Size of villages	Number of villages	Per cent incorporated	Per cent unincorporated
All villages	1,783	20.5	79.5
1000 to 2499	192	75.0	25.0
500 to 999	261	47.5	52.5
250 to 499	371	21.8	78.2
50 to 249	959	1.7	98.3

The unincorporated villages hold a preponderant place among the villages of New York; more than one-half (52.9 per cent) of the total number of villages are in the small-unincorporated class (figure 27).

Sections

The distribution between the total number of incorporated and of unincorporated villages was almost the same for the urban and the farming counties, approximately 77 per cent being unincorporated. In the suburban and the mountain counties, 85.7 and 86.8 per cent of the total, respectively, were unincorporated (tables 38 to 41).

The same classes in the different sections manifested interesting contrasts. For example, in the suburban counties considerably more than one-half (56.1 per cent) of the villages in the largest class (1000 to 2499) were unincorporated, but in the farming counties this proportion was only 4.3 per cent; and between these two extremes were

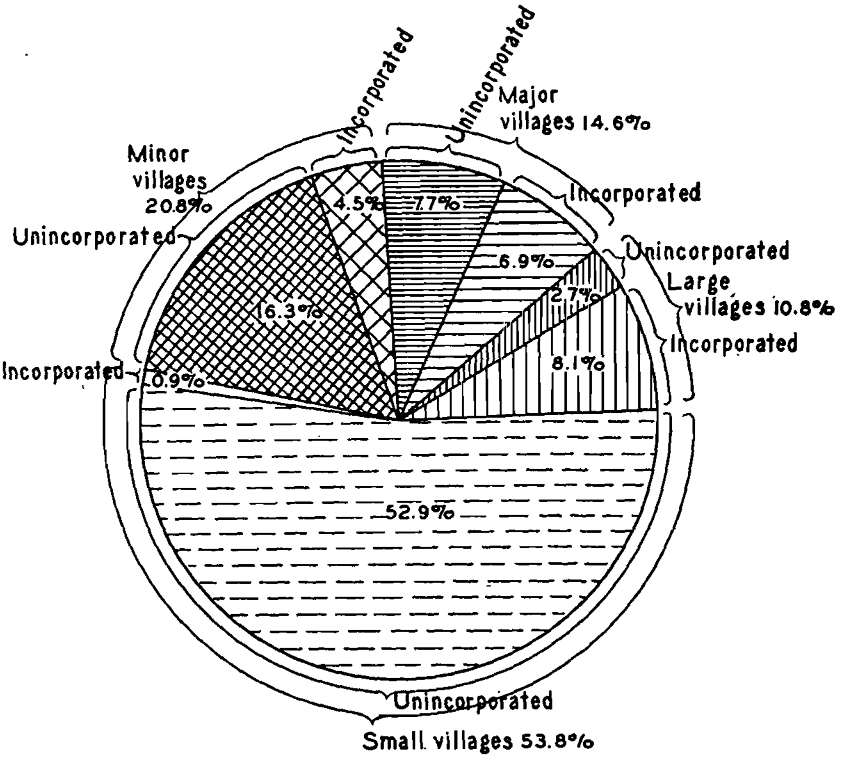


FIGURE 27. DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBERS OF VILLAGES IN NEW YORK ACCORDING TO SIZE AND INCORPORATION, 1920

the mountain counties with 33.3 per cent and the urban counties with 25.7 per cent unincorporated. Less than one-half of the major villages (500 to 999) in the urban and the farming counties were unincorporated, the ratios being 44.6 and 39.6 per cent, respectively. In contrast with these counties, 83.6 per cent of the villages of this size were unincorporated in the suburban and 59.3 per cent in the mountain counties. For the villages in the minor class (250 to 499), the notable fact was that, in the suburban counties, 90 per cent were unincorporated, while in the urban and the farming counties only 71.8 and 74.4 per cent, respectively, were unincorporated.

TABLE 38. URBAN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION IN NUMBERS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

Size of villages	Number of villages	Per cent incorporated	Per cent unincorporated
All villages	589	22.4	77.6
1000 to 2499	70	74.3	25.7
500 to 999	83	55.4	44.6
250 to 499	103	28.2	71.8
50 to 249	333	1.5	98.5

TABLE 39. FARMING COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION IN NUMBERS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

Size of villages	Number of villages	Per cent incorporated	Per cent unincorporated
All villages	747	22.9	77.1
1000 to 2499	69	95.7	4.3
500 to 999	96	60.4	39.6
250 to 499	156	25.6	74.4
50 to 249	426	1.6	98.4

TABLE 40. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION IN NUMBERS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

Size of villages	Number of villages	Per cent incorporated	Per cent unincorporated
All villages	265	14.3	85.7
1000 to 2499	41	43.9	56.1
500 to 999	55	16.4	83.6
250 to 499	70	10.0	90.0
50 to 249	99	4.0	96.0

TABLE 41. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION IN NUMBERS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

Size of villages	Number of villages	Per cent incorporated	Per cent unincorporated
All villages	182	13.2	86.8
1000 to 2499	12	66.7	33.3
500 to 999	27	40.7	59.3
250 to 499	42	11.9	88.1
50 to 249	101	0.0	100.0

Population

New York State

The fact that a number of unincorporated towns — that is, unincorporated places of 2500 population or over — were in existence in 1920 was discussed in the preceding division. Brief attention is here given to a comparison of their population with that of the incorporated towns.

Approximately 17 per cent of the town population of both classes lived in the unincorporated places (figure 28). This was due to the

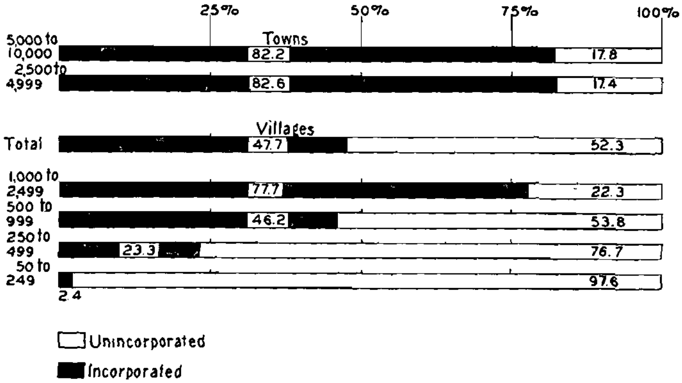


FIGURE 28. NEW YORK STATE: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

situation in the suburban counties, where about 46.5 per cent of the total unincorporated-town and -village population was found in the towns. No unincorporated towns existed in the farming counties, and only two in the urban, and the counties in which these towns were located had many suburban characteristics.

Of the total village population of the State, 52.3 per cent was in the unincorporated villages in 1920. Only 22.3 per cent of the total population of the large villages (1000 to 2499) was in the unincorporated places. On the other hand, in all other classes of villages the unincorporated-village population predominated.

Sections

The percentage distribution of the total village population between the incorporated and the unincorporated villages differed rather markedly for the various sections. Of the total village population, 72.8 per cent lived in unincorporated villages in the suburban counties, but

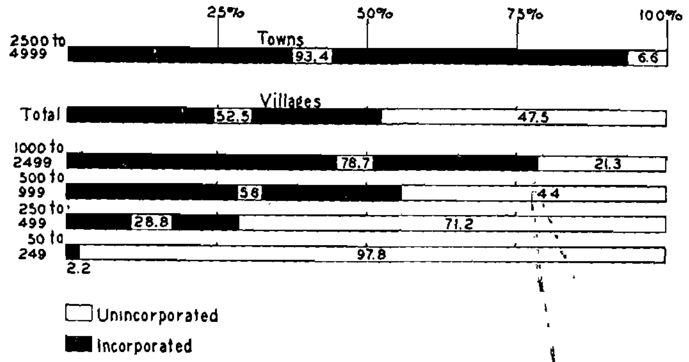


FIGURE 29. URBAN COUNTIES: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

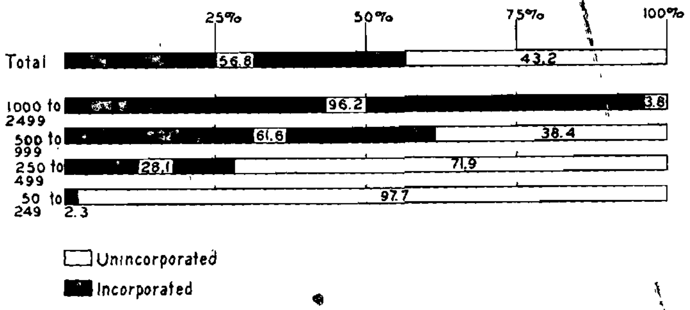


FIGURE 30. FARMING COUNTIES: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

only 43.2 per cent in the farming counties; and between these two were the mountain and the urban counties, with 59.9 and 47.5 per cent, respectively. The same contrasts hold for the different classes of villages in the various sections. Thus, in the suburban counties the unincorporated-village population predominated over the incorporated for all classes, but in the farming counties only for the two smallest.

These data show that where there is a notable urban pressure the villages of all sizes tend to remain unincorporated, but where conditions are subject to farming influences the villages have a greater likelihood of being incorporated.

The incorporation of a village in agricultural territory gives certain privileges which can be obtained in no other way, but in the urban

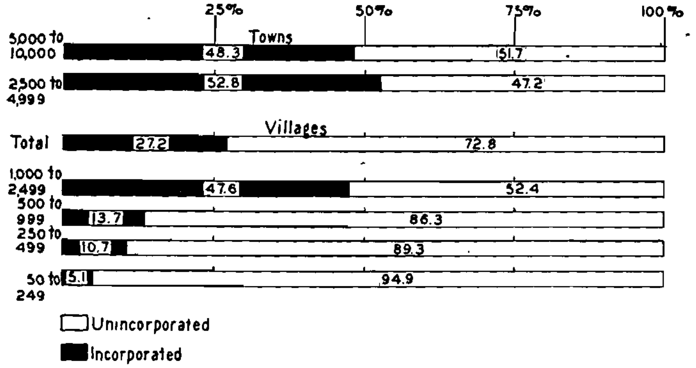


FIGURE 31. SUBURBAN COUNTIES: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

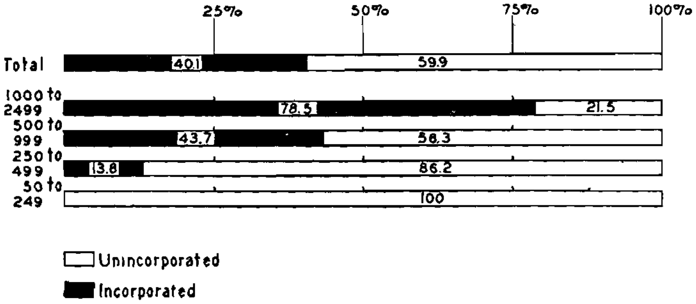


FIGURE 32. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF VARIOUS SIZES, 1920

regions the same advantages may be obtained without the expense of incorporation. In addition to this fact, the interest of the suburban people is in the city, while that of the village dweller in the farming area lies in the village itself; here the village is both the home and the business center. The incorporation of villages is discussed more fully in a later division.

DENSITY AND INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VILLAGES

The following analysis concerns the special influences that help determine (1) the location and the density of villages, and (2) their increase in numbers. No consideration is here given to their being incorporated or unincorporated. Running through the previous discussions have been suggestions respecting these factors, but at no place has any special examination been made of them. Comparisons are here made between particular counties and the different county groupings (tables 42 and 43, figures 33 to 35).

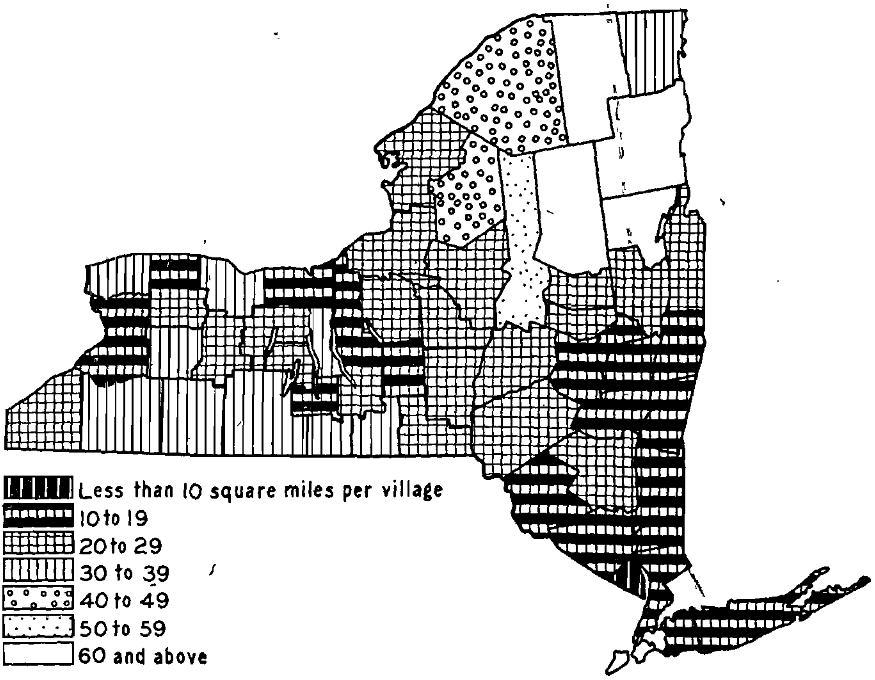


FIGURE 33. DENSITY OF VILLAGES IN NEW YORK, 1920

Density and distribution

The three outstanding factors that determine the density and the distribution of villages are: (1) nearness to cities, the type of village being apparently influenced by the character of the city; (2) the type of farming, which is dependent on character of the soil, topography, and market demands for any particular time; and (3) routes of transpor-

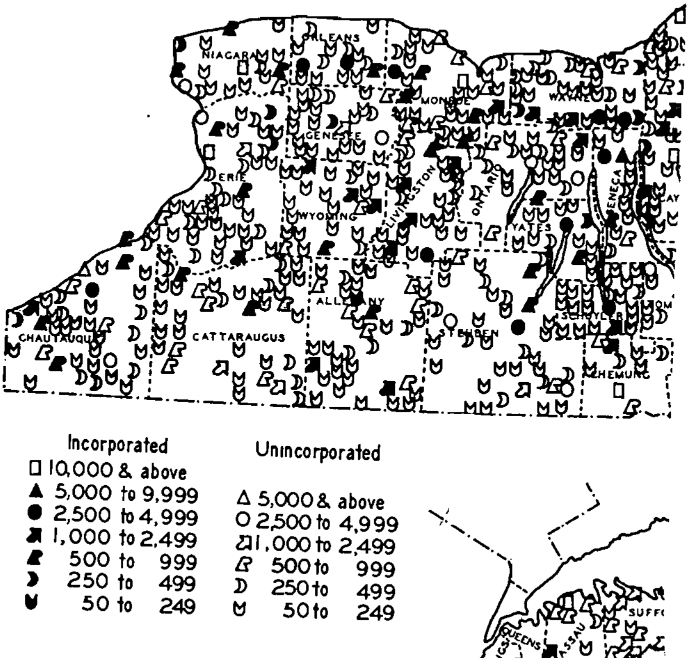
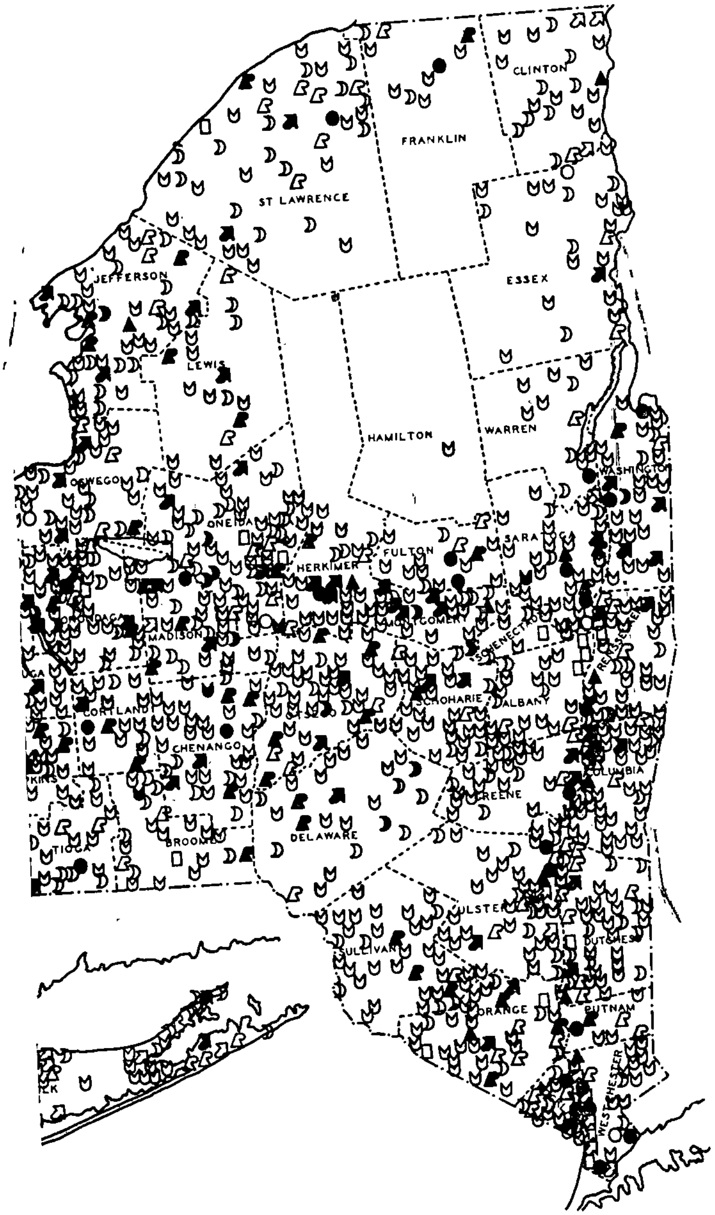


Figure 34. cities, towns, and



VILLAGES IN NEW YORK, 1870

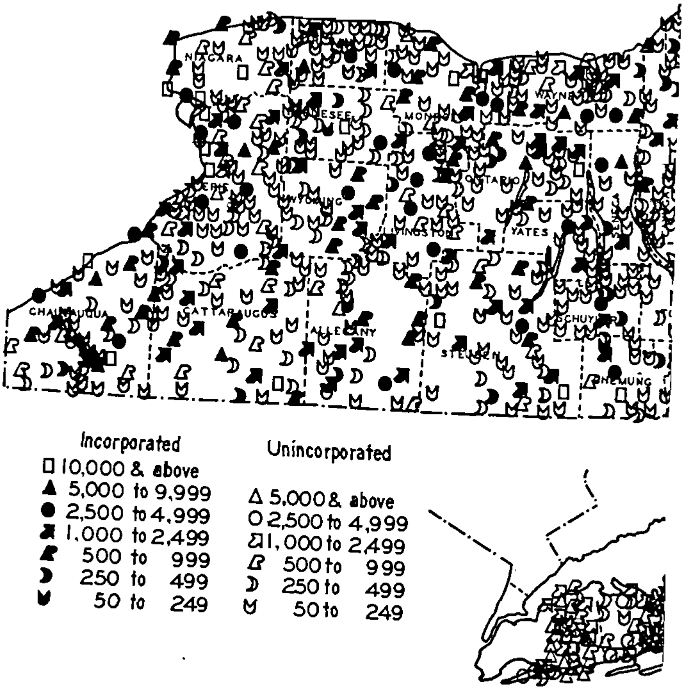
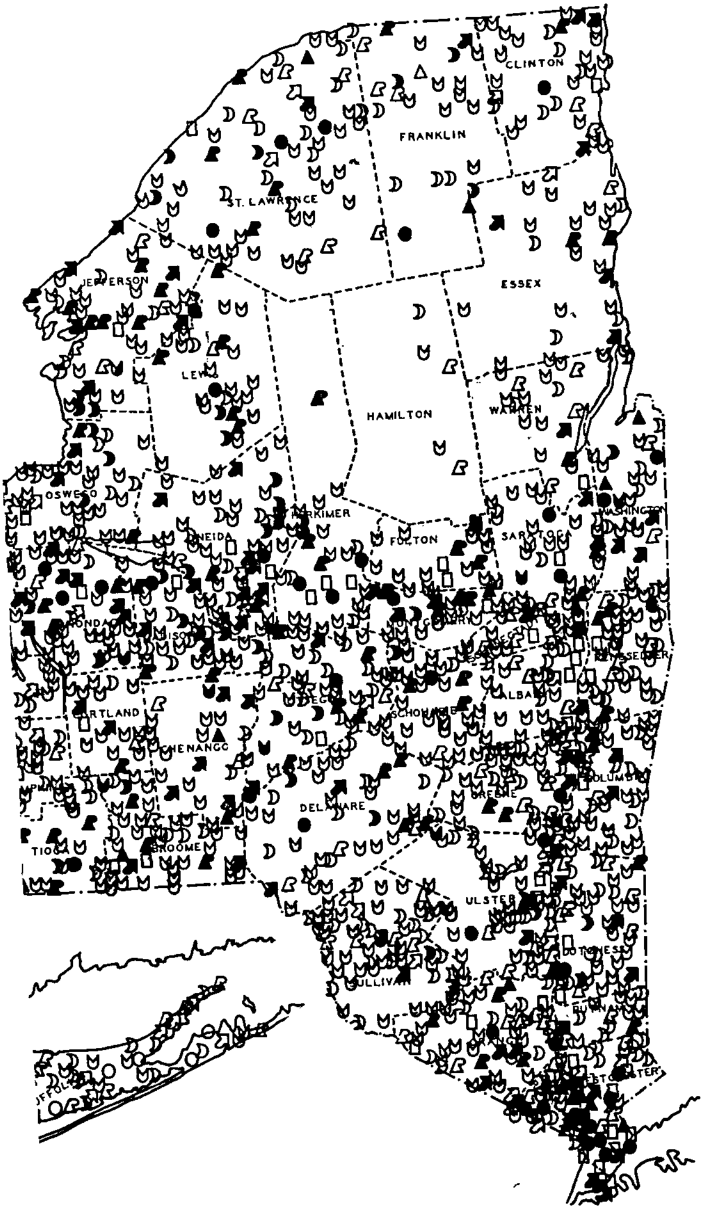


FIGURE 35. CITIES, TOWNS AND



VILLAGES IN NEW YORK, 1920

tation and travel. These factors are examined in the order in which they are mentioned.

Some cities seem to make for greater density of villages, while others act in the reverse manner, the size and the density of the city or cities being the determing factors. In the environs of New York City and Buffalo, and along the Hudson River, the density of villages is high where the cities are close together. On the other hand, in Monroe, Onondaga, and Niagara Counties, in which are located Rochester, Syracuse, and Niagara Falls, respectively, there are more square miles per village than in the contiguous counties which have no cities but have similar agricultural conditions (table 42, and figures 33 and 35). A city which is compact and from which there has been little migration to the suburbs seems to prevent the growth of villages. In regions where there is no leading town or city, as is the case with many farming counties, the density of the villages is greater than in counties having one large town or small city.

In 1920 the average number of square miles per village in the suburban counties was 15.1, while in the farming counties it was 26.

The type of agriculture is the second important force that influences the density of villages, as a comparison of counties shows. Orleans, which is a farming county in the fruit section and lies along Lake Ontario, in the northern part of the State, has a total of twenty-five villages and two towns, one of the towns having between 2500 and 4999 population and the other between 5000 and 9999. Without considering the towns, there was one village for every fourteen square miles of land, or including the towns there was one center for every thirteen square miles. Of the twenty-five villages only two were incorporated, one of which was in the large class (1000 to 2499) and the other in the major class (500 to 999). Six of the unincorporated villages had a population between 250 and 499, and seventeen had between 50 and 249. The distribution of small villages over the country was rather even.

On the other hand, Allegany County, in the southern part of the State where mixed and dairy farming are predominant, contained in 1920 one village for every thirty-one square miles. (The relationship between physiography and soil on the one hand, to distribution on the other, is worth noting here.) This county had a total of thirty-four villages, and one incorporated town with between 2500 and 4999 inhabitants; eleven of the thirty-four villages were incorporated: five of these were in the large class (1000 to 2499), four in the major (500 to 999), one in the minor (250 to 499), and one in the small (50 to 249). Two of the unincorporated villages were in the major class, seven in the minor, and the remaining fourteen in the small. Orleans County had 706 persons in the rural population for each village, and Allegany County had 995. In Orleans County there were 402 persons

TABLE 42. NUMBER OF SQUARE MILES PER VILLAGE, FOR EACH COUNTY, 1920

County	Square miles per village	County	Square miles per village
Albany	18+	Oneida	26+
Allegany	31–	Onondaga	21–
Broome	21–	Ontario	24+
Cattaraugus	34+	Orange	17
Cayuga	18–	Orleans	14
Chautauqua	27–	Oswego	21+
Chemung	37	Otsego	24
Chenango	21+	Putnam	17+
Clinton	35–	Rensselaer	17
Columbia	15+	Rockland	5
Cortland	31+	St. Lawrence	40–
Delaware	34–	Saratoga	24–
Dutchess	19–	Schenectady	19
Erie	19+	Schoharie	19
Essex	68	Schuyler	19+
Franklin	70–	Seneca	30+
Fulton	32+	Steuben	37–
Genesee	22–	Suffolk	14+
Greene	16+	Sullivan	16–
Hamilton	283	Tioga	30–
Herkimer	56+	Tompkins	22–
Jefferson	27+	Ulster	22–
Lewis	43+	Warren	65
Livingston	25–	Washington	26+
Madison	20–	Wayne	18+
Monroe	23–	Westchester	19–
Montgomery	22+	Wyoming	32–
Nassau	15+	Yates	29–
Niagara	31–		
		Total	26+

in the farm population for every village, and in Allegany County there were 536 for every village and town.

Further analyses reveal the influence of a city located in a fruit region. Monroe County, which is near Orleans County and has much the same character of farming, in 1920 had one city, Rochester, three incorporated towns in the 2500-to-4999 class, and seven incorporated villages of which three were in the large (1000 to 2499) and four in the major (500 to 999) class. Within its boundaries were twenty-two unincorporated villages, of which three were in the large class, two in the major, two in the minor, and the remaining fifteen in the small class. There was one village for every twenty-three square miles. Including the three towns there was one village for every twenty square miles. For the entire rural population there was one village for every 1544 persons, and for the farm population one village for every 695.

Taking each city, town, and village as a unit, there was one for every 611 of farm population. These villages in Monroe County show the influence of the city in two distinct ways—size and location. Thus the villages and towns are larger than those in Orleans County, and the distribution over the county varies from that of Orleans. The farm population was larger per village than in either Orleans or Allegany County. Furthermore, many of these places are located near the lake, being largely residential and recreational, not farming, centers.

Routes of travel likewise help to determine the location and the density of villages. A glance at figure 35 shows this, since the course of the Erie Canal can be traced across the State by the villages as well as by the cities.

These factors are well illustrated by comparing the distribution of villages in the State in 1870 with that in 1920 (figures 34 and 35). In 1870 the villages, both incorporated and unincorporated, were rather evenly scattered over the entire State where they had been located earlier in response to particular local needs. By 1920, however, the villages had become distributed more along routes of travel and transportation and in the vicinity of cities.

Increase in number of villages

Between 1870 and 1920, 448 incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages came into existence (table 43). The total increase in numbers was greatest for the farming counties, but in relation to the number of counties the increase here was least. In the twenty-five farming counties, 151 villages came into existence; in the nineteen urban counties, 141; in the seven suburban counties, 95; and in the six mountain counties, 61. Thus, in order of greatest relative increases in number of villages per county, the sections stood: suburban, mountain, urban, farming.

The two mountain counties where the greatest increase took place were Greene and Sullivan. The same mountainous conditions in these two counties that prevented the existence of a large number of places prior to 1870, had contributed to their development by 1920 under a different technic of life and habits of living. In 1870 Greene County possessed one village for approximately each twenty-seven square miles of territory, but by 1920 it had one village to approximately every sixteen square miles. This same situation holds for Sullivan and for the other mountain counties, but to a less extent. Both Greene and Sullivan are rapidly becoming suburban counties.

While some villages have been growing, others have tended to decline and become only hamlets, or to disappear. Between 1870 and 1920, forty-five small villages (50 to 249) lost their identity in the urban counties, fifty-three in the farming counties, twenty-one in the suburban

TABLE 43. NUMBER OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES, BOTH INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED, WHICH WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE IN 1870 BUT WERE IN 1920

	Incorporated towns and villages					Unincorporated towns and villages					Both incorporated and unincorporated					
	Towns	1000 to 2499	500 to 999	250 to 499	50 to 249	Towns	1000 to 2499	500 to 999	250 to 499	50 to 249	Towns	1000 to 2499	500 to 999	250 to 499	50 to 249	Total
Urban counties...	5	10	6	2	1	0	9	14	10	84	5	19	20	12	85	141
Farming counties..	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	11	17	116	0	2	13	19	117	151
Suburban counties	4	3	2	2	1	5	7	19	23	29	9	10	21	25	30	95
Mountain counties	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	5	12	39	0	3	5	14	39	61
Total........	9	15	10	8	3	5	19	49	62	268	14	34	59	70	271	448

counties, and two in the mountain counties. Very few of the villa in the large, major, and minor classes have disappeared.

It is impossible to determine satisfactorily the cause for the decl In some counties it probably was due to the movement of the fa population, while others, in the lumbering region, declined when lumber gave out. Furthermore, as has been mentioned in another c nection, many villages disappeared through their incorporation i larger places. However, on the whole the villages of New York h not declined to any great extent.

DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION

This investigation has revealed the fact that the term *rural* as u by the United States Census Bureau lacks exactness for use in sociolc As commonly employed, the term is confusing in that it includes ess tially different elements of population. Accordingly an analysis rural population for 1920 is here made, to determine its constitu elements and their relative significance.

Rural population

Rural population, according to the United States Census Bureau defined as that residing outside incorporated places having 2500 inh itants or more.[24] In common usage, *rural* refers only to farm po lation, and often when rural problems are mentioned they imply o problems involving farm people. The rural population of New Y for 1920 consisted of four classes — farm, unincorporated-town a -village, incorporated-village, and non-farming-non-village. The tre for the first two separately and for the last two together have alre been discussed, and here only a comparison of the different classes 1920 is offered. These figures (given in tables 44 to 48, inclusiv while not absolutely accurate, reveal the general lack of informat on this subject.

Farm population

Farm population and rural population are far from being the sa in New York; in 1920 the rural population composed 17.3 per cent the total of the State, but the farm population was only 7.7 per c (table 44). In that year the farm population was greater than t of any of the other groups of rural population, but at that it was than one-half the rural, being 44.4 per cent. In only two sections the State, the farming and the mountain counties, did the farm po lation form more than one-third of the total, and in those sections was only 35.4 and 36.5 per cent, respectively, in the other secti dropping to 12.2 per cent in the suburban and 9.8 per cent in urban counties (tables 45 to 48). Furthermore, in only one section,

[24] Fourteenth Census of the United States. State compendium, New York, page 1

TABLE 44. NEW YORK STATE, DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN 1920, AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL AND OF RURAL POPULATION THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RURAL POPULATION CONSTITUTED

	Population	Per cent of total population*	Per cent of rural population
Incorporated villages	346,877	3.3	19.3
Unincorporated towns and villages	483,877	4.7	26.9
Farm population	796,516	7.7	44.4
Non-farming-non-village population	168,113	1.6	9.4
Total rural population	1,795,383	17.3	....

* Including New York City.

TABLE 45. URBAN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN 1920, AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL AND OF RURAL POPULATION THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RURAL POPULATION CONSTITUTED

	Population	Per cent of total population	Per cent of rural population
Incorporated villages	125,661	4.2	19.6
Unincorporated towns and villages	121,269	4.0	18.9
Farm population	293,724	9.8	45.8
Non-farming-non-village population	100,216	3.3	15.6
Total rural population	640,870	21.3	....

TABLE 46. FARMING COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN 1920, AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL AND OF RURAL POPULATION THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RURAL POPULATION CONSTITUTED

	Population	Per cent of total population	Per cent of rural population
Incorporated villages	153,600	14.3	22.4
Unincorporated towns and villages	117,019	10.9	17.1
Farm population	379,560	35.4	55.3
Non-farming-non-village population	35,526	3.3	5.2
Total rural population	685,705	64.0	....

TABLE 47. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN 1920 AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL AND OF RURAL POPULATION THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RURAL POPULATION CONSTITUTED

	Population	Per cent of total population	Per cent of rural population
Incorporated villages	41,366	7.8	12.5
Unincorporated towns and villages	206,454	39.2	62.6
Farm population	64,133	12.2	19.4
Non-farming-non-village population	17,903	3.4	5.4
Total rural population	329,856	62.6	....

TABLE 48. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN 1920 AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL AND OF RURAL POPULATION THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE RURAL POPULATION CONSTITUTED

	Population	Per cent of total population	Per cent of rural population
Incorporated villages	26,250	16.2	18.9
Unincorporated towns and villages	39,135	24.1	28.2
Farm population	59,099	36.5	42.5
Non-farming-non-village population	14,468	8.9	10.4
Total rural population	138,952	85.7	....

farming counties, did the farm population form more than one-half of the total rural population, the ratio being 55.3 per cent in that section.

Unincorporated towns and villages

The people living in the unincorporated towns and villages formed the second largest group of the rural population. Of course the 4.7 per cent of the total population of the State which this class constituted was not large, but it formed 26.9 per cent of the total rural population. The section of the State where this class of population was highest in relation to the total, 39.2 per cent, was in the suburban counties, where it made up 62.6 per cent of the rural. It formed an important portion of the rural population in the other sections, but did not predominate as in the suburban counties.

Incorporated villages

The incorporated-village population composed the third largest part of the total rural population. The ratio that this class bore to the total population was very small, being only 3.3 per cent, and yet almost one-fifth, 19.3 per cent, of the total rural population belonged in it. In the farming counties the incorporated-village population constituted a larger share of the rural population than in any of the other sections.

Non-farming-non-village population

The population belonging in the non-farming-non-village class was not a large proportion of the total, being only 1.6 per cent, and yet it made up almost one-tenth, 9.4 per cent, of the total rural population. A significant fact is that in the urban and the mountain counties this class ran rather high. In the urban counties it formed 3.3 per cent of the total population and 15.6 per cent of the rural; and in the mountain counties it formed 8.9 per cent of the total population and 10.4 per cent of the rural. This population group is of sufficiently great significance to show that here is a portion that does not belong with farming population. Also, here is a class of population that is in close relationship to the farming population and must constitute an important influence on rural life.

Different meanings of "rural"

The term *rural* refers to one class of population in one place and to another class in another place. In Suffolk County, rural population is a combination of suburban people who live within both incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages, farmers, and a great bulk of people who live in no locality sufficiently compact to have a name but who are not farmers. In Allegany County, rural population is predominantly farming. The distributor of cream separators could not depend on the information furnished by the census to determine where to advertise his wares.

The counties with the greatest density of rural population in 1920 were Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, and Rockland, all the counties nearest New York City (figure 36). The suburban counties had the greatest density of rural population of all the sections, and yet only 19.4 per cent of their rural population were farmers. All the counties in the State with the greatest density of rural population, except three, were either suburban or urban. This was, of course, not due to the large farming population but to just the opposite.

As at present used, the term *rural* is too comprehensive and thus may lead to misconceptions regarding problems of farm population. Furthermore, scientific work which involves and is dependent on the census classification of *rural*, cannot be done because there is no way of knowing to what *rural* may refer.

PART II. RURAL POPULATION OF NEW YORK FROM 1920 TO 1925

The second part of this study is concerned primarily with the changes in the various classes of population for New York State and its various sections between 1920 and 1925. The classifications of population and the statistical data for 1920 are the same as are used in the first part. The sources of information for 1925 were the New York State census and the federal agricultural census of that date.

At certain points emphasis is placed upon similarities and differences in the changes of various classes of population in comparison with the preceding decades, but this five-years period is marked by singular characteristics which are also carefully noted.

TRENDS IN CLASSES OF POPULATION

The larger classes of population, including the cities, the two classes of towns, and the rural, for the whole State and for the sections, are first considered (tables 49 to 53, figures 36 and 37). When the total

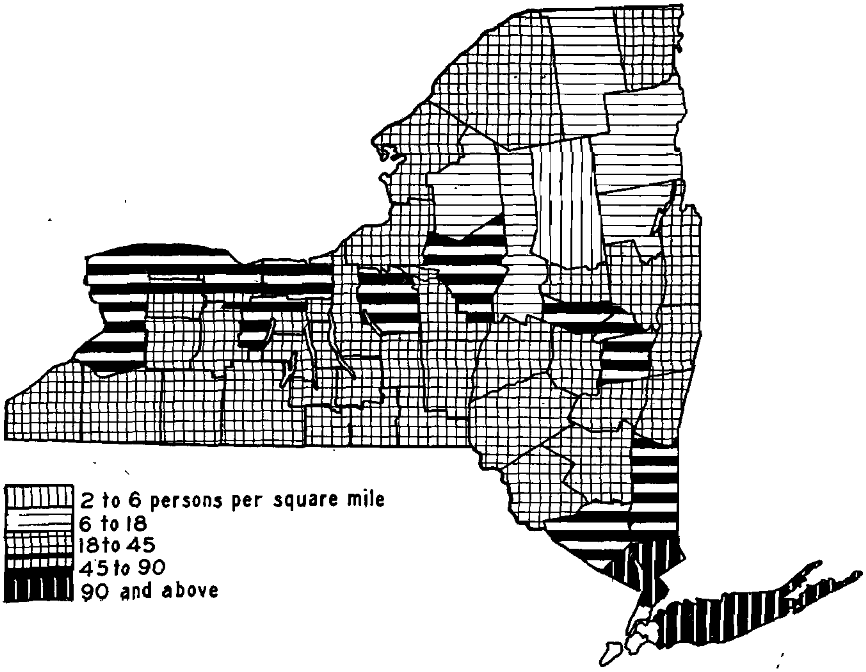


FIGURE 36. DENSITY OF RURAL POPULATION IN NEW YORK, 1920
(From the federal census of 1920, State Compendium, New York)

and the city population for the whole State are mentioned, New York City is included; but it is never placed in any of the county groups.

Total population

The gain in the total population of the State was proportionately similar between 1920 and 1925 and between 1910 and 1920, being 7.5 and 14 per cent, respectively (tables 1 and 49); but the tendencies in the different sections were very dissimilar between 1920 and 1925 and preceding decades. The greatest growth in the total population of the sections was in the suburban counties, where it was 27.5 per cent (1910–1920, 6.8 per cent); the urban counties were second, 10.5 per cent (1910–1920, 16.4 per cent); the mountain counties were third, 8.2 per cent (1910–1920, 6 per cent decrease); and the farming counties were last, 4.7 per cent (1910–1920, 2.5 per cent decrease).

Distribution

The change, though small, between 1920 and 1925 in the percentages of the total population found in the cities and in the rural areas, reversed all previous tendencies. From 1855 to 1920 the percentage of the total population living in cities steadily increased, and that in the rural areas steadily decreased; but in 1925 the percentage of the total population living in cities was smaller than in 1920, while that in the rural area was larger (tables 1 and 49). While there were changes in the ratio which the population of the towns bore to the total, this was of no great significance. In the urban and the farming counties the percentage of the total population that lived in the cities, and the per-

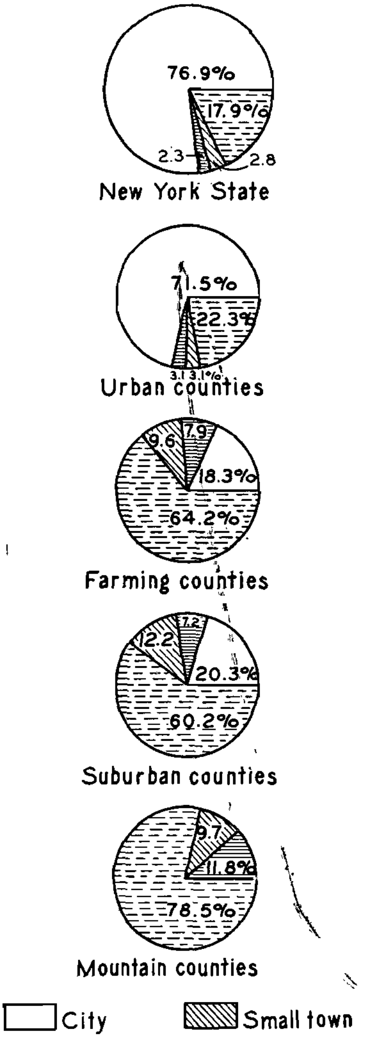


FIGURE 37. DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF NEW YORK STATE INCLUDING NEW YORK CITY, AND OF POPULATION IN THE COUNTY GROUPS EXCLUDING NEW YORK CITY, 1925

TABLE 49. NEW YORK STATE, TOTAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain*		Growth	
	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total population	....	10,385,227†	....	....	11,162,151†	....	....	....	776,924	7.5
Cities	58	8,103,046†	78.0	62	8,588,290†	76.9	485,244	6.0	425,109	5.2
Large towns	30	200,606	1.9	40	260,108	2.3	59,502	29.7	54,850	27.3
Small towns	81	286,192	2.7	87	310,488	2.8	24,296	8.5	36,776	12.8
Rural	....	1,795,383	17.3	....	2,003,265	17.9	207,882	11.6	285,464	15.9

* In this and the four following tables, where population gain and growth are the same, growth alone is given.
† Includes New York City, which is not included in tables 50 to 53.

TABLE 50. URBAN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total population	....	3,005,092	....	....	3,320,214	....	....	....	315,122	10.5
Cities	39	2,183,663	72.7	40	2,373,045	71.5	189,382	8.7	164,288	7.5
Large towns	11	72,538	2.4	17	102,411	3.1	29,873	41.2	9,116	12.6
Small towns	30	108,021	3.6	28	103,743	3.1	(-4,278)	(-3.9)	16,841	15.6
Rural	....	640,870	21.3	....	741,015	22.3	100,145	15.6	127,391	19.9

TABLE 51. FARMING COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total population	....	1,071,573	....	....	1,122,036	....	....	....	50,463	4.7
Cities	13	201,945	18.8	13	205,656	18.3	....	....	3,711	1.8
Large towns	11	74,712	7.0	13	88,348	7.9	13,636	18.2	3,104	4.1
Small towns	30	109,211	10.2	30	107,735	9.6	(-1,476)	(-1.3)	6,368	5.8
Rural	....	685,705	64.0	....	720,297	64.2	34,592	5.0	38,076	5.5

TABLE 52. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total population	....	526,469	....	....	671,234	....	....	....	144,765	27.5
Cities	5	97,390	18.5	8	136,233	20.3	38,843	39.9	3,802	3.9
Large towns	6	40,626	7.7	7	48,643	7.2	8,017	19.7	39,961	98.4
Small towns	18	58,597	11.1	24	82,080	12.2	23,483	40.1	12,155	20.7
Rural	....	329,856	62.6	....	404,278	60.2	74,422	22.6	111,658	33.8

TABLE 53. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, TOTAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Number of places	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total population	....	162,045	....	....	175,311	....	....	....	13,266	8.2
Large towns	2	12,730	7.8	3	20,706	11.8	7,976	62.6	2,669	21.0
Small towns	3	10,363	6.4	5	16,930	9.7	6,567	63.4	1,412	13.6
Rural	....	138,952	85.7	....	137,675	78.5	(-1,277)	(-0.9)	8,339	6.0

centage of the total belonging in the rural areas, between 1920 and 1925, shifted as in the State as a whole. This was not due, in the suburban counties, to any decrease in rural population, but rather to the great gain and growth of population in the small cities, as is explained later.

Gain in classes

The suburbanization process was the outstanding phenomenon which characterized the movements of population between 1920 and 1925 (tables 49 to 53). This is manifest in the analyses of both the gain and the growth of classes.[25]

TABLE 54. PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN POPULATION, BY COUNTIES, 1910 TO 1920 AND 1920 TO 1925

County	Percentage increase or decrease in population		County	Percentage increase or decrease in population	
	1910–1920	1920–1925		1910–1920	1920–1925
Putnam	-26.0	+15.7	St. Lawrence	- 1.0	+ 4.1
Ulster	-17.6	+10.7	Hamilton	- 1.0	+ 6.8
Greene	-14.0	+9.3	Oswego	- 0.8	+ 0.5
Allegany	-11.0	- 0.09	Ontario	+ 0.7	+ 4.9
Columbia	-10.7	+ 9.7	Montgomery	+ 0.7	+ 5.9
Yates	-10.7	+ 6.1	Madison	+ 0.9	+ 3.2
Orleans	-10.6	+ 7.2	Genesee	+ 0.9	+14.3
Schoharie	-10.5	+ 0.9	Fulton	+ 1.0	+ 2.4
Clinton	- 9.1	+ 5.1	Cortland	+ 1.3	+ 4.8
Seneca	- 8.1	+ 2.5	Jefferson	+ 2.3	+ 4.2
Rensselaer	- 7.4	+ 4.6	Orange	+ 3.2	+ 4.8
Schuyler	- 7.1	+ 2.7	Dutchess	+ 4.6	+ 7.9
Delaware	- 6.1	+ 1.5	Tompkins	+ 4.7	+12.1
Washington	- 6.0	+ 3.9	Albany	+ 7.1	+ 5.9
Tioga	- 5.4	+ 7.8	Cattaraugus	+ 8.1	+ 3.4
Franklin	- 4.8	+ 5.4	Chautauqua	+ 9.7	+11.0
Essex	- 4.7	+ 0.5	Suffolk	+14.6	+29.8
Wyoming	- 4.7	+ 1.6	Herkimer	+15.2	+ 2.6
Lewis	- 4.4	+ 4.2	Oneida	+18.6	+ 7.4
Steuben	- 3.2	+ 1.9	Erie	+19.9	+ 9.2
Livingston	- 3.0	+ 6.6	Chemung	+20.5	+ 9.7
Saratoga	- 3.0	+ 9.2	Onondaga	+20.6	+10.5
Cayuga	- 2.8	+ 6.7	Westchester	+21.6	+23.6
Rockland	- 2.7	+23.9	Schenectady	+23.7	+ 6.7
Wayne	- 2.6	+ 6.0	Monroe	+24.3	+11.4
Otsego	- 2.0	+ 2.6	Niagara	+29.0	+12.3
Sullivan	- 2.0	+21.1	Broome	+44.1	+18.8
Warren	- 1.8	+ 7.5	Nassau	+50.2	+64.1
Chenango	- 1.6	+ 1.8			

[25] *Gain* and *growth* are used in the same sense as in Part I (page 56, footnote).

All classes gained in population; the percentage gain was least in the cities (6 per cent) and largest in the large towns (29.7 per cent), it being 8.5 per cent and 11.6 per cent in the small towns and rural sections, respectively. This is a remarkable contrast to the change between 1910 and 1920, when the city population increased 19.5 per cent and the rural decreased 6.7 per cent.

With one exception every county in the State increased in population between 1920 and 1925, whereas between 1910 and 1920 thirty-two decreased (table 54). The greatest percentage increases were in the counties dominated by the cities, though sharp contrasts existed in many other counties between the rate of change for the two periods.

The city-population and rural-population gains were both greatest in the urban and the suburban counties; the cities contributed to the rural-population growth. In the farming counties neither city nor *rural gained greatly, but the rural gain, 5 per cent, was more than the city-population growth, 1.8 per cent.* The rural population decreased in the mountain counties, but these had no cities with which to make comparisons.

ANALYSIS OF GROWTH IN CLASSES OF POPULATION

The dominating tendency toward suburbanization is well brought out by an examination of the actual growth and the various classes of population; and, without such, the study of the gains made in the last paragraph is incomplete.

Cities, 10,000 and above

Though the gain in all cities of the State, including New York City, was 6 per cent, the actual growth of the fifty-eight cities of 1920 was 5.2 per cent. Four places that were towns in 1920, and were in the shadow of New York City, came to have more than 10,000 population, which accounts for the 6-per-cent gain. The larger cities gained relatively less than did the smaller—New York City increasing by only 4.5 per cent, and the remaining fifty-seven cities of 1920 by 6.9 per cent.

Large towns, 5000 to 9999

The actual growth of the large towns evidences further the trend from the large cities, or suburbanization. The thirty places which were large towns in 1920 had an actual growth of 27.3 per cent; the greatest

of this was in the suburban counties, where six actually grew 98.4 per cent, and the least was in the farming counties, where eleven grew only 4.1 per cent. This tremendous growth of the large towns in the suburban counties made three of them cities.

Small towns, 2500 to 4999

The population of the State's eighty-one small towns of 1920 actually grew 12.8 per cent by 1925, though the gain in the class was only 8.5 per cent. Fewer people lived in small towns in 1925 than in 1920 in both the urban and the farming counties, but this was due to the growth of these places, which took seven out of the class in the urban and two in the farming counties; the thirty of 1920 in the urban counties actually grew 15.6 per cent, and the thirty of the farming counties 5.8 per cent. Likewise, in the suburban and the mountain counties a large actual growth occurred for the small towns, 20.7 and 13.6 per cent, respectively.

Rural population

The conspicuous phenomenon in this whole population-shifting process was the increase of the rural population. As indicated above, the rural population of the State as a whole, and in every section except the mountain, gained, but in the State as a whole and in every section the actual growth was larger than the class gain. The gain in the rural population of the whole State was 11.6 per cent; the growth was 15.9 per cent. In the mountain counties, where there was a decrease in the rural population as a class, a growth of 6 per cent occurred; the loss in the rural population was ascribable to the increase of three large villages which became towns, unavoidably moving more than 7500 population out of the rural class. The actual growth of the rural population was greatest in the suburban counties (33.8 per cent), which again shows the influence of the cities. Further details of the gain and growth of the different classes of rural population are given in the next section.

Shifting of counties between groups

A redistribution of counties for 1925 on the basis used for 1920 (figures 1 and 38) illustrates the discussion on suburbanization. Three counties — Dutchess, Oswego, and Chautauqua — that were urban in 1920 had become suburban by 1925.[26] Also, Sullivan, a mountain county in 1920, had changed to suburban; good roads and nearness to New York City made of it a suburban district. On the other hand, cities grew sufficiently in Orange County to transform it from a suburban to an urban county.

[26] For method of classifying in county groups, see page 10.

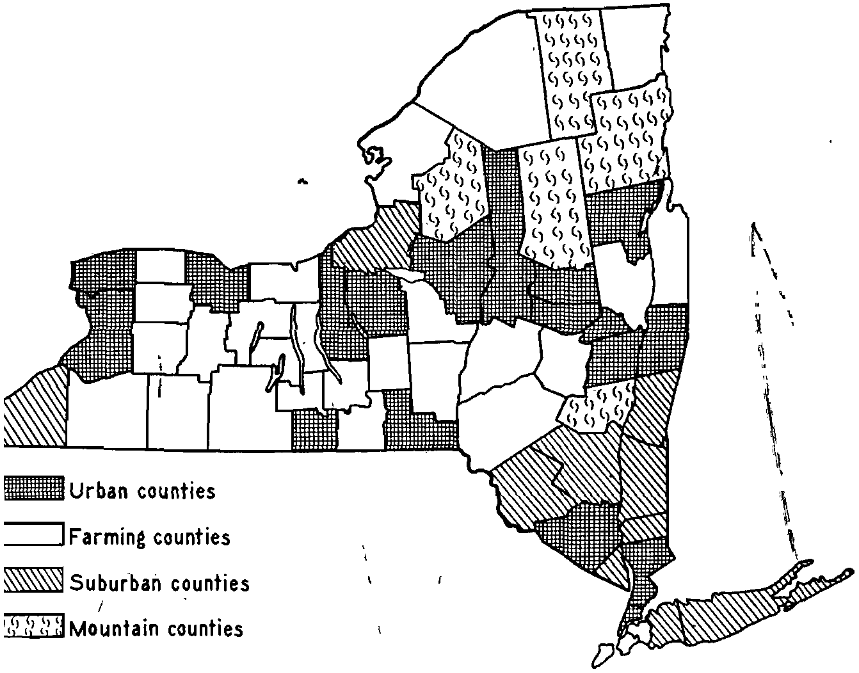


FIGURE 38. *TYPES OF COUNTIES IN NEW YORK ACCORDING TO POPULATION, 1925*

TRENDS IN CLASSES OF RURAL POPULATION

Density of rural population

The density of rural population in New York increased in every ounty except four, from 1920 to 1925. In three of these — Wayne, ichoharie, and Essex — it decreased because a place that was a village n 1920 became a town before 1925 (figures 36, 39, and 40). This is a marked contrast with the previous changes in rural population, which ad steadily grown less from 1880 to 1920.

The average density of the rural population varied greatly for the ifferent sections in 1925: for urban counties, it was 52.9 persons per quare mile; for farming counties, 34.2; for suburban counties, 112.8; nd for mountain counties, 16.9.

The localities dominated by cities had the greatest rural-population ensity, as is shown by the suburban group and by a number of the rban counties. Five urban counties especially marked in this respect vere Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, and Westchester; in the first four

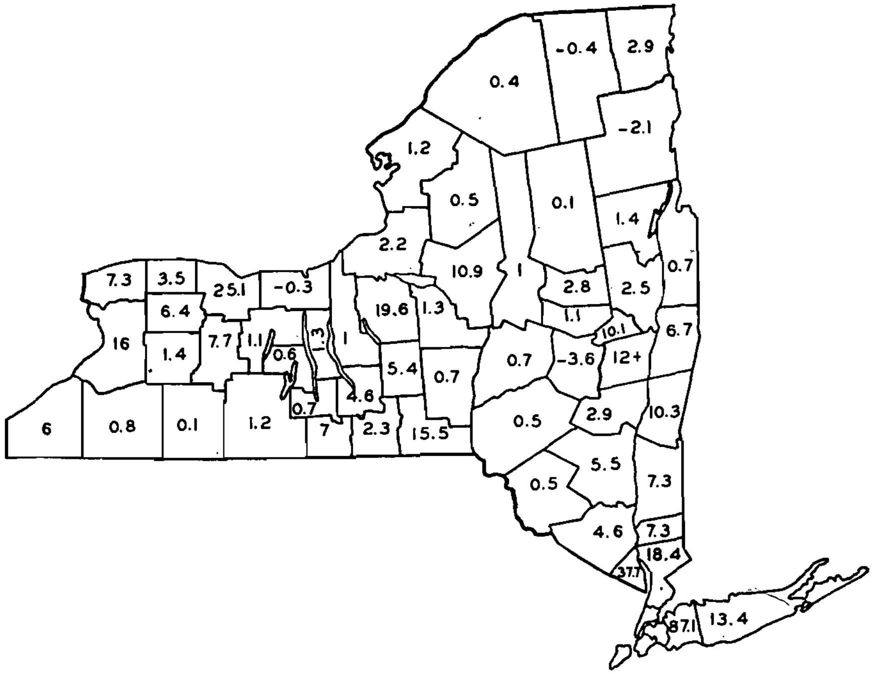


FIGURE 39. PERCENTAGE INCREASE AND DECREASE OF RURAL POPULATION, BY COUNTIES, BETWEEN 1920 AND 1925

are located the cities of Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Rochester, respectively, and in Westchester County there are a number of cities. The suburban counties which had a very noticeable increase in rural-population density between 1920 and 1925 were Nassau, Suffolk, and Rockland, all of which are in the immediate vicinity of New York City.

Gain in classes of rural population

The constituent classes of rural population, as previously shown, are incorporated-village, farm, and unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village. It was impossible to separate the last two for 1925. What occurred betwen 1920 and 1925 is brought out by an examination (1) of the proportion of the total rural population which each class constituted in 1920 and in 1925, (2) of the gains of the various classes, and (3) of their actual growth (tables 55 to 59, figure 41).

The percentage of the total rural population belonging in the unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village class was much larger

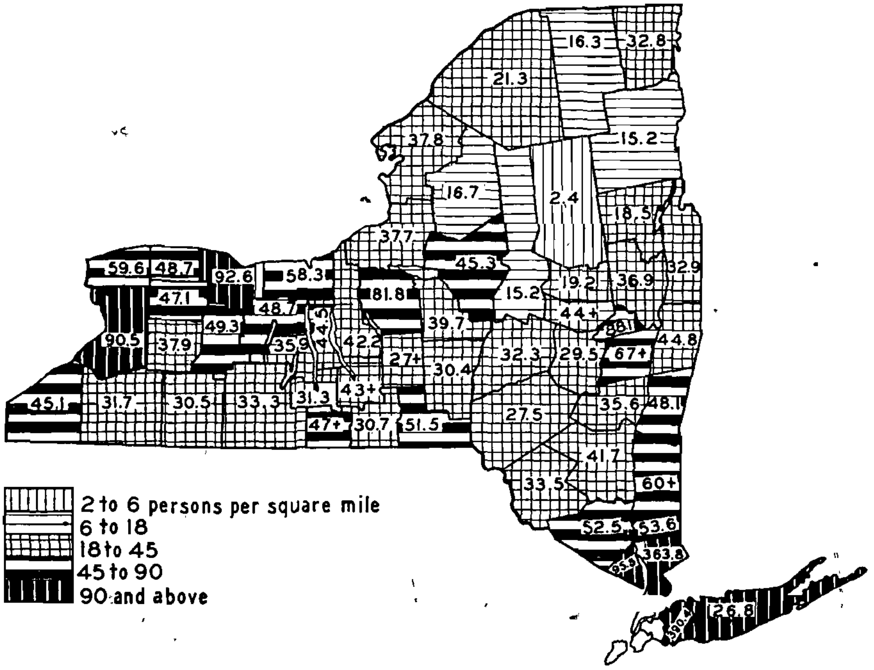


FIGURE 40. DENSITY OF RURAL POPULATION IN NEW YORK, 1925

in the whole State in 1925 than in 1920, being 44.3 and 36.3 per cent, respectively; the 44.3 per cent being larger than for any other year covered in this study. On the other hand, the proportions of the total rural population which the incorporated-village and farm classes constituted were less in 1925 than in 1920. These generalizations are applicable to all classes and each group of counties, except for the incorporated villages of the farming counties. Since further analyses of the gains are of little value without further examination of the actual growth, the paragraphs immediately following are concerned with that subject.

TABLE 55. NEW YORK STATE, RURAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total rural population......	1,795,383	17.3	....	2,003,265	17.9	....	207,882	11.6	285,464	15.9
Incorporated villages.......	346,877	3.3	19.3	353,256	3.2	17.6	6,379	1.8	51,655	14.9
Farm....................	796,516	7.7	44.4	762,509	6.8	38.1	....	....	(-34,007)	(-4.3)
Unincorporated towns and villages, and non-farming-non-village population....	651,990	6.3	36.3	887,500	7.9	44.3	235,510	36.1	267,814	41.1

TABLE 56. URBAN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total rural population......	640,870	21.3	......	741,015	22.3	......	100,145	15.6	127,391	19.9
Incorporated villages.......	125,661	4.2	19.6	129,032	3.9	17.4	3,371	2.7	21,196	16.9
Farm....................	293,724	9.8	45.8	284,299	8.6	38.4	....	......	(-9,425	(-3.2)
Unincorporated towns and villages, and non-farming-non-village population....	221,485	7.4	34.6	327,684	9.9	44.2	106,199	47.9	115,620	52.2

TABLE 57. FARMING COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total rural population......	685,705	64.0	......	720,297	64.2	......	34,592	5.0	38,076	5.5
Incorporated villages.......	153,600	14.3	22.4	162,116	14.4	22.5	8,516	5.5	8,828	5.7
Farm....................	379,560	35.4	55.3	354,642	31.6	49.2	....	......	(-24,918)	(-6.6)
Unincorporated towns and villages, and non-farming-non-village population....	152,545	14.2	22.2	203,539	18.1	28.3	50,994	33.4	54,160	35.5

TABLE 58. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total rural population......	329,856	62.6	......	404,278	60.2	......	74,422	22.6	111,658	33.8
Incorporated villages.......	41,366	7.9	12.5	39,972	5.9	9.9	(-1,394)	(-3.4)	16,818	40.6
Farm....................	64,133	12.2	19.4	67,332	10.0	16.6	....	......	3,199	5.0
Unincorporated towns and villages, and non-farming-non-village population....	224,357	42.6	68.0	296,974	44.2	73.5	72,617	32.4	91,645	40.8

TABLE 59. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, RURAL POPULATION, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent of total	Per cent of rural	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
Total rural population......	138,952	85.7	......	137,675	78.5	......	(-1,277)	(-0.9)	8,339	6.0
Incorporated villages.......	26,250	16.2	18.9	22,136	12.6	16.1	(-4,114)	(-15.7)	4,813	18.3
Farm....................	59,099	36.5	42.5	56,236	32.1	40.8	....	......	(-2,863)	(-4.8)
Unincorporated towns and villages, and non-farming-non-village population....	53,603	33.1	38.6	59,303	33.8	43.1	5,700	10.6	6,389	11.9

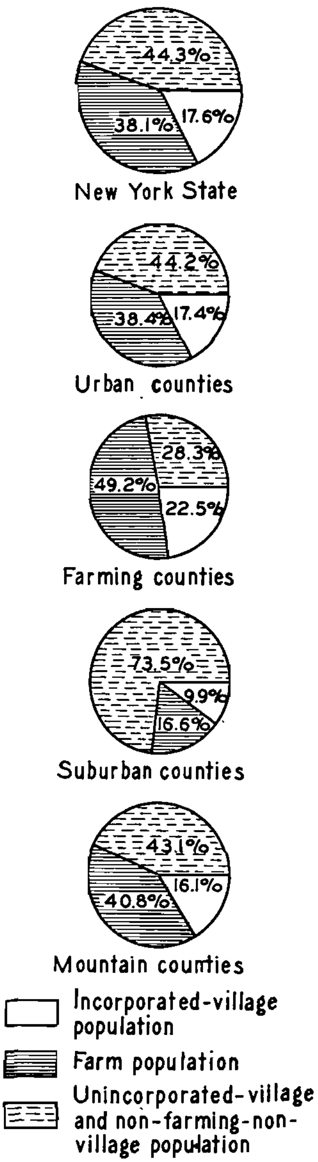


FIGURE 41. DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION IN NEW YORK STATE AND IN THE COUNTY GROUPS, 1925

ANALYSIS OF GROWTH IN CLASSES OF RURAL POPULATION

As indicated previously, the total rural population of the State actually grew 15.9 per cent between 1920 and 1925, but here we point out the class or classes in which the actual growth was most prevalent.

Unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village population

The unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village group formed the largest element of the rural population in the whole State in 1925 and had the greatest actual growth between 1920 and 1925. It grew 41.1 per cent in the State: in the urban counties, 52.2 per cent; in the farming counties, 35.5 per cent; in the suburban counties, 40.8 per cent; and in the mountain counties, 11.9 per cent. These data indicate that the suburbanization process was related to this class of population particularly, and prevailed in all sections although it was a little more pronounced in the urban and the suburban counties than in the others. However, even in the farming counties the large percentage growth in this class shows that population tended to go out from the small cities and towns in these counties, as from the large cities in the suburban and the urban counties. Whether their actual growth took place in the unincorporated villages or in the non-farming-non-village group, it is impossible to determine from these data.

Farm population

The farm population in the State as a whole decreased 4.3 per cent from 1920 to 1925, yet this decline was not characteristic of all sections. (Between 1910 and 1920 this population declined 13 per cent.) The odd facts of the farm-population shift were a growth of 5 per cent in the suburban counties, and a decline of 3.2, 4.8, and 6.6 per cent in the urban, mountain, and farming counties, respectively, which suggests that nearness to the cities made for the growth. In the decades 1890 to 1900 and 1900 to 1910, the farm population increased in the suburban counties and declined in the others (table 11). An examination of individual counties corroborates further this suggestion that the cities help hold up the farm population (tables 60 to 63).[27] Eighteen counties increased in farm population between 1920 and 1925, and of these six were in the urban, five in the farming, five in the suburban, and two in the mountain counties. Seven—Nassau, Rockland, Orange, Columbia, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Saratoga—are located in the vicinity of New York City and in the Hudson River Valley, and five—Erie, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee—lie near the lakes. As a rule the increases were greater for the urban and suburban than for the farming and mountain counties. It is probable that the population

[27] All data in these tables except for 1920 were taken from the report of the United States agricultural census for 1925.

TABLE 60. URBAN COUNTIES, FARM POPULATION, 1920 AND 1925

County	Average number of persons per farm, 1925	Number of farmers, 1925	Average number of acres per farm, 1925	Average value per farm, 1925	Farm population 1920	Farm population 1925	Farm population Increase or decrease
Albany	4.13	2,661	92.5	$ 8,283	12,196	10,985	-1,211
Broome	3.75	3,515	103.5	7,376	14,879	13,199	-1,680
Cayuga	3.60	4,412	84.3	7,487	17,790	15,887	-1,903
Chautauqua	3.72	7,354	79.1	8,344	29,394	27,383	-2,011
Chemung	4.03	1,925	108.0	6,591	8,052	7,765	-287
Dutchess	4.94	2,303	141.1	12,988	12,892	11,379	-1,513
Erie	4.34	7,899	66.2	10,688	30,992	33,527	+2,535
Fulton	3.79	1,922	91.2	4,861	7,340	7,288	-52
Herkimer	4.25	2,739	118.6	8,710	11,795	11,643	-152
Monroe	4.74	5,004	68.7	14,296	21,420	23,746	+2,326
Montgomery	4.34	2,024	107.8	7,918	8,342	8,781	+439
Niagara	4.23	4,303	66.7	12,362	16,842	18,229	+1,387
Oneida	4.01	5,822	97.9	7,746	25,805	23,367	-2,438
Onondaga	4.09	5,538	73.7	9,025	23,399	22,665	-734
Oswego	3.52	5,815	76.8	5,303	22,931	20,501	-2,430
Rensselaer	4.14	3,130	101.0	6,218	12,743	12,954	+211
Schenectady	4.13	1,092	86.5	8,735	4,070	4,518	+448
Warren	3.61	1,504	120.9	4,555	6,475	5,430	-1,045
Westchester	6.46	782	93.0	38,516	6,367	5,052	-1,315
Average	4.20	......	93.5	$10,000	......	......	-496

figures for 1920 in some counties are too high and in others too low, since in obtaining them the average number of persons per farm for the whole State was multiplied by the number of farms in the county; yet the foregoing conclusions seem tenable.

A scrutiny of the density of farm population as it existed in 1925 strengthens these conclusions, since nearness to cities and the character of the farm products determine density.

Likewise, counties with cities had the highest average farm population per farm in 1925, other things being similar. Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties are located on the shore of Lake Ontario and are in the great fruit-growing region of the State; they have similar agricultural conditions, but two of them, Niagara and Monroe, have large cities, while Orleans and Wayne are predominantly farming. Some variation existed between the sizes and the values of the farms, but the outstanding contrast was in the average population per farm; in Niagara and Monroe, the two urban counties, these averages were 4.23 and 4.74, respectively, while in the other two counties, Orleans and Wayne, they were 4.03 and 4.14, respectively. The suburban

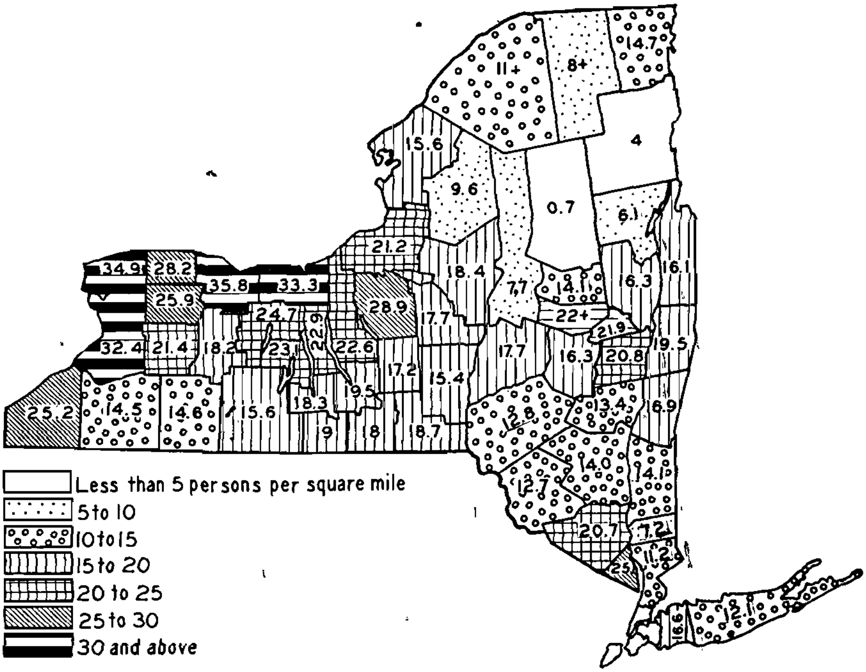


FIGURE 42. DENSITY OF FARM POPULATION IN NEW YORK, 1925

counties provide examples of the force exerted on farm population through proximity to New York City. Nassau County had a farm population of 6.08 per farm; Suffolk, 5.04; and Rockland, 5.17.

Incorporated-village population

The third class of the rural population belongs to the incorporated villages. Though the gain in the total population of the incorporated villages as a class was only 1.8 per cent, the actual growth of the 365 villages of 1920 was 14.9 per cent (table 55). This was more rapid than the growth in the preceding decade, when the population of the 347 incorporated villages of 1910 grew only 8.8 per cent by 1920 (table 31). Between 1920 and 1925 twenty-one villages became towns, which necessarily removed more that 52,500 persons from the village classification. This class of population actually grew in all the county groupings of the State, but the growth was greatest in the suburban and least in the farming counties (tables 56 to 59).

TABLE 61. FARMING COUNTIES, FARM POPULATION, 1920 AND 1925

County	Average number of persons per farm, 1925	Number of farmers, 1925	Average number of acres per farm, 1925	Average value per farm, 1925	Farm population		
					1920	1925	Increase or decrease
Allegany	3.64	4,203	129.8	$ 6,477	18,237	15,306	-2,931
Cattaraugus	3.64	5,353	117.9	7,416	21,963	19,520	-2,443
Chenango	3.73	3,698	129.4	6,902	15,889	13,799	-2,090
Clinton	4.86	3,385	122.2	7,274	14,084	15,445	+1,361
Cortland	3.96	2,192	121.9	7,612	9,584	8,677	-907
Delaware	4.31	4,293	162.6	8,400	19,098	18,535	-563
Genesee	4.19	3,055	88.8	10,624	11,944	12,812	+868
Jefferson	3.96	5,007	131.4	9,026	21,325	19,876	-1,449
Livingston	4.29	2,686	126.4	11,408	12,002	11,532	-470
Madison	3.81	3,632	95.9	7,349	14,892	14,248	-644
Ontario	4.35	3,685	92.3	10,551	16,817	16,037	-780
Orleans	4.03	2,767	80.3	12,422	10,677	11,175	+498
Otsego	3.66	4,887	112.0	6,376	19,748	17,909	-1,839
St. Lawrence	3.94	7,583	133.5	8,128	31,679	29,879	-1,800
Saratoga	4.08	3,298	96.5	6,054	13,157	13,469	+312
Schoharie	3.62	2,889	115.1	6,090	11,555	10,478	-1,077
Schuyler	3.79	1,600	108.2	6,790	6,785	6,073	-712
Seneca	4.05	1,902	94.5	9,772	7,688	7,709	+21
Steuben	3.78	5,786	125.4	6,733	25,386	21,895	-3,491
Tioga	3.75	2,506	106.8	5,852	10,520	9,393	-1,127
Tompkins	3.94	2,363	99.0	7,137	10,557	9,319	-1,238
Washington	3.98	3,389	125.1	6,579	13,803	13,491	-312
Wayne	4.14	4,814	68.8	10,377	20,617	19,947	-670
Wyoming	3.95	3,254	107.6	9,225	13,103	12,880	-223
Yates	3.98	1,997	97.5	10,107	8,450	7,954	-496
Average	3.98	......	111.5	$8,187	......	......	-888

TABLE 62. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, FARM POPULATION, 1920 AND 1925

County	Average number of persons per farm, 1925	Number of farmers, 1925	Average number of acres per farm, 1925	Average value per farm, 1925	Farm population		
					1920	1925	Increase or decrease
Columbia	4.22	2,589	121.6	$10,225	10,681	10,919	+238
Nassau	6.08	766	56.1	60,467	3,871	4,658	+787
Orange	4.66	3,706	83.9	10,499	14,867	17,268	+2,401
Putnam	4.38	386	139.1	15,794	3,175	1,687	-1,488
Rockland	5.17	889	44.3	17,007	3,440	4,595	+1,155
Suffolk	5.04	2,222	50.3	19,846	10,251	11,212	+961
Ulster	4.21	4,036	87.4	10,174	17,848	16,993	-855
Average	4.82	......	83.2	$20,573	......	......	+457

TABLE 63. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, FARM POPULATION, 1920 AND 1925

County	Average number of persons per farm, 1925	Number of farmers, 1925	Average number of acres per farm, 1925	Average value per farm, 1925	Farm population		
					1920	1925	Increase or decrease
Essex	4.16	1,873	151.0	$ 6,379	8,189	7,790	-399
Franklin	4.33	3,103	113.3	6,517	13,658	13,453	-205
Greene	3.72	2,328	113.2	6,989	9,307	8,669	-638
Hamilton	3.84	316	104.5	5,176	1,056	1,216	+160
Lewis	4.13	2,974	148.5	7,172	12,221	12,301	+80
Sullivan	4.06	3,163	94.3	10,057	14,668	12,807	-1,861
Average	4.04	......	120.8	$7,048	......	......	-477

GAIN AND GROWTH IN CLASSES OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES

In what classes and county groups did the incorporated villages *gain* between 1920 and 1925? In what classes and county groups did the incorporated villages have the greatest *growth* in the same period? What were the counties and the classes of villages in which the largest number of villages gained or lost? The following discussion on the trends of the classes of villages attempts to answer these three questions (tables 64 to 68). Since there were only a few small villages, no comment need be made on them.

Large villages, 1000 to 2499

The large villages lost, in the State as a whole, 4.2 per cent between 1920 and 1925; but the 144 villages which were in the class in 1920 actually grew 15.9 per cent. These villages actually grew in all sections of the State, but the growth was least in the farming counties (5.1 per cent) and greatest in the suburban counties (37.4 per cent).

Major villages, 500 to 999

The population in the major villages gained as a class and also grew, but in the State as a whole the growth was not so much as the class gain. This happened because a larger population came into the class of major villages from the minor villages (250 to 499), than passed out by growth into the large class. The highest percentage of class gain was in the suburban counties, but the largest percentage of growth occurred in the urban counties; and the smallest actual growth was in the farming counties.

Minor villages, 250 to 499

The number of persons living in the minor villages also became greater from 1920 to 1925 in the State as a whole, but, unlike the major villages, the percentage growth was much more than the gain for the class.

Number of villages that gained or lost

Though the total population of villages in all county groupings actually grew, not all villages increased in population (tables 69 and 70). The average percentage gain and loss were very close together for all classes of villages in the State as a whole, and between three and four times as many increased as decreased. The greatest average gains were in the suburban counties, where there were practically no losses. The average loss of villages that declined in the farming section was greater than similar averages in the other sections, and the average gain of villages that grew in the farming counties was less than the

TABLE 64. NEW YORK STATE, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

Size of villages	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
All villages	365	346,877	......	375	353,256	......	6,379	1.8	51,655	14.9
1000 to 2499	144	229,086	66.0	140	219,396	62.1	(-9,690)	(-4.2)	36,489	15.9
500 to 999	124	85,545	24.7	140	101,128	28.6	15,583	18.2	9,216	10.8
250 to 499	81	29,384	8.5	79	30,209	8.5	825	2.8	5,208	17.7
50 to 249	16	2,862	0.8	16	2,523	0.7	(-339)	(-11.8)	742	25.9

TABLE 65. URBAN COUNTIES, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

Size of villages	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
All villages	132	125,661	......	129	129,032	......	3,371	2.7	21,196	16.9
1000 to 2499	52	82,140	65.4	54	84,091	65.2	1,951	2.4	15,389	18.7
500 to 999	46	32,344	25.7	47	34,794	27.0	2,450	7.6	5,195	16.1
250 to 499	29	10,283	8.2	25	9,534	7.4	(-749)	(-7.3)	727	7.1
50 to 249	5	894	0.7	3	613	0.5	(-281)	(-31.4)	(-115)	(-12.9)

TABLE 66. FARMING COUNTIES, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

Size of villages	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
All villages	171	153,600	......	175	162,116	......	8,516	5.5	8,828	5.7
1000 to 2499	66	98,830	64.3	65	100,397	61.9	1,567	1.6	5,096	5.1
500 to 999	58	38,992	25.4	66	46,622	28.8	7,630	19.6	2,422	6.2
250 to 499	40	14,543	9.5	37	13,795	8.5	(-748)	(-5.1)	887	6.1
50 to 249	7	1,235	0.8	7	1,302	0.8	67	5.4	423	34.2

TABLE 67. SUBURBAN COUNTIES, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

Size of villages	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
All villages	38	41,366	......	46	39,972	......	(-1,394)	(-3.4)	16,818	40.6
1000 to 2499	18	31,687	76.6	16	24,791	62.0	(-6,896)	(21.8)	11,854	37.4
500 to 999	9	6,309	15.2	16	11,204	28.0	4,895	77.6	991	15.7
250 to 499	7	2,637	6.4	9	3,601	9.0	964	36.5	3,539	134.2
50 to 249	4	733	1.8	5	376	0.9	(-357)	(-48.7)	434	59.2

TABLE 68. MOUNTAIN COUNTIES, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, GAIN AND GROWTH BY CLASSES, 1920 TO 1925

Size of villages	1920			1925			Gain		Growth	
	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Number of villages	Population	Per cent of total	Population	Per cent	Population	Per cent
All villages	24	26,250	......	25	22,136	......	(-4,114)	(-15.7)	4,813	18.3
1000 to 2499	8	16,429	62.6	5	10,117	45.7	(-6,312)	(-38.4)	4,150	25.3
500 to 999	11	7,900	30.1	11	8,508	38.4	608	7.7	608	7.7
250 to 499	5	1,921	7.3	8	3,279	14.8	1,358	70.7	55	2.9
50 to 249	......	....	......	1	232	1.0	232	......	....	......

average gains in the other counties. In the farming counties almost half as many villages in all classes decreased as increased. Likewise, practically two-thirds of all the villages that declined in population were in the farming counties.

TABLE 69. NEW YORK STATE AND SECTIONS, NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES WHICH GREW IN POPULATION FROM 1920 TO 1925 AND AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH, BY CLASSES *

Size of villages	State		Urban counties		Farming counties		Suburban counties		Mountain counties	
	Number	Average per cent growth	Number	Average per cent growth	Number	Average per cent growth	Number	Average per cent growth	Number	Average per cent growth
1000 to 2499	112	21.9	43	20.1	45	8.5	17	33.1	7	23.2
500 to 999	99	16.6	40	16.5	42	11.1	9	35.1	8	13.8
250 to 499	61	19.1	23	14.1	28	19.1	7	37.9	3	14.1

* The small villages are not included, since any conclusions based on the few that existed in 1920 would be unreliable.

TABLE 70. NEW YORK STATE AND SECTIONS, NUMBER OF INCORPORATED VILLAGES WHICH LOST POPULATION FROM 1920 TO 1925 AND AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF LOSS, BY CLASSES *

Size of villages	State		Urban counties		Farming counties		Suburban counties		Mountain counties	
	Number	Average per cent loss	Number	Average per cent loss	Number	Average per cent loss	Number	Average per cent loss	Number	Average per cent loss
1000 to 2499	32	5.0	9	3.9	21	5.6	1	3.8	1	5.2
500 to 999	21	4.6	4	3.4	15	4.6	..	....	2	7.2
250 to 499	20	6.5	5	7.2	12	5.5	1	3.4	2	12.8

* The small villages are not included, since any conclusions based on the few that existed in 1920 would be unreliable.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The following pages contain a restatement of the outstanding facts discovered in this investigation, and conclusions of significance which are drawn from these facts. The section is divided into two parts: the first relates to the data covered in the first part of the work, for the period from 1855 to 1920, and the second to those covered in the second part, for the period from 1920 to 1925. The statements for the two parts are given in the order of their significance rather than in that followed in the preceding pages.

Period from 1855 to 1920

1. The *rural population* of New York composed only 17.3 per cent of the total population in 1920, which was a decline from 60 per cent in 1855. This decline was both absolute and relative after 1880, as the rural population became less each succeeding decade. The decrease was due apparently to the city growth, since the proportion of the total population of the State living in cities with a population of 10,000 and above increased from 33.8 per cent in 1855 to 78 per cent in 1920.

The rural population declined in all sections of the State, but was greatest in the farming and least in the suburban counties, which shows the surprising fact that near the cities rural population tended to remain more stable than in regions away from the immediate urban influence. This situation is well shown by the decline of rural population between 1910 and 1920, when in the State as a whole the total rural-population decrease was 6.7 per cent, but in the farming counties the loss was 9.9 per cent and in the suburban counties it was only 2.6 per cent.

The term *rural population* as at present used is too inclusive and inaccurate. Rural population includes four groups: incorporated-village, farm, unincorporated-town and -village, and non-farming-non-village. In 1920 the incorporated-village population composed 19.3 per cent of the total rural population, the unincorporated-town and -village population 26.9 per cent, the farm population 44.4 per cent, and the non-farming-non-village population, 9.4 per cent.

Besides being too inclusive, the term *rural population* may include a preponderance of one type at one place and a very dissimilar type at another, which contributes to great inaccuracy. Rural population near New York City is very different from rural population in a farming county such as Allegany. In the environs of New York City this population is a composite of people living in incorporated villages, those living in unincorporated towns and villages, those scattered along roads and not sufficiently near to one another to have acquired place names, and the farming population, which was very small. In a county

predominantly farming, the rural population is composed largely of farmers.

2. The *farm population* of New York decreased both absolutely and relatively from 1855 to 1920. In 1855, 33.3 per cent of the total and 55.4 per cent of the rural population of the State was engaged in agriculture, but by 1920 this population formed only 7.7 per cent of the total and 44.4 per cent of the rural. During each succeeding decade from 1890 to 1920, the rate at which the farm population left the farms was accelerated, the losses being 1.7 per cent from 1890 to 1900 5.5 per cent from 1900 to 1910, and 13 per cent from 1910 to 1920 The farm population of the State was approximately one-third less in 1920 than in 1855.

Farm population responds in two ways to the process of suburbanization: at one time it increases, and at another time it decreases. At one period the city seems to stimulate farmers to become vegetable and truck gardeners, which in turn causes an increase in farm population this was noted for certain decades. But as the city continues to send its population out from the center, the land is forced into suburban use and the farm population necessarily decreases.

3. The *unincorporated-town and -village and non-farming-non-village population* declined somewhat in the State as a whole between 1855 and 1920, but between 1855 and 1870 and between 1900 and 1910 this class gained. The decrease in this population prevailed only in the farming and the mountain counties; it increased between 1900 and 1920 in the urban counties, and from 1855 to 1920 in the suburban counties.

The significant aspects of the unincorporated places were the large percentages of the total number of all villages which the small (below 250) villages composed, and the existence and large population of the unincorporated towns. In 1920 the villages below 250 constituted 53.8 per cent of the total number of villages in the State, and of these most were unincorporated since the unincorporated villages of this size made up 52.9 per cent of the total number. Not all the unincorporated places were small, since there existed twenty-eight with a population of 2500 or more in 1920. Of these, twenty-two, each having between 2500 and 4999, had a total population of 60,095, and the six which had 5000 or more had a combined population of 43,500. All these unincorporated towns except two were in the suburban counties.

The location of these towns shows the tendency for villages to remain unincorporated in the environs of the city, and for them to become incorporated where surrounded by the farming influences. This is also revealed by the percentage of the total unincorporated villages which the small (below 250) unincorporated villages constituted, as found in the different sections. Of the total unincorporated towns and villages in the farming counties, 72.7 per cent were below 250; in the urban

counties, 71.5 per cent; in the suburban, only 37.5 per cent; and in the mountain, 63.9 per cent.

4. The *incorporated villages* of New York increased in number from 175 in 1855 to 365 in 1920. Likewise the total population found in these villages as a class (using from year to year the places having a population below 2500) increased from 1855 to 1910, but declined between 1910 and 1920. The increasing and decreasing in the village population varied greatly for the various sections, the shifting being the greatest in the suburban counties.

Though the figures according to the census often showed a decline between 1910 and 1920 in the total population belonging in villages, this population consistently grew in the State as a whole from 1855 to 1920. A decline in a class may indicate a growth of villages out of the class, which removes a large population from the village classification. In fact, the decline in the total population of villages between 1910 and 1920 was due to this fact, since enough villages grew and became towns to cause a loss of more than 60,000 to the villages for that decade. Furthermore, between 1855 and 1920, 108 villages grew sufficiently to become towns, causing considerable losses for the large villages during the various decades.

From these data it can be seen that the drawing of inferences from the ready acceptance of the totals of village population as given in the census reports, without taking any account of the number of villages which became towns and accordingly grew out of the class, is an inaccurate method of judging growth and decline. The decline of villages as a class between census years may be due to their growth rather than to a loss.

Villages in close proximity to cities actually grew more than did villages in the farming counties. Generally the large villages (1000 to 2499) grew at a higher rate than did the small classes. The major villages (500 to 999) and the villages under 500 population showed a tendency to decline after 1890 in the farming counties, where the farm population had begun to decline ten years previously.

The data suggest that, in the farming counties especially, and to a limited extent, incorporated-village population follows the shifting of farm population, but the fluctuation ensues a decade or more after the farm population has shifted, which might be designated as *village-population shift lag.* Decline of farm population when it is due to prosperity causes an increase in the population of villages; but where farm population decreases through a movement to the cities due to a low price level, the village population likewise becomes less.

5. The factors that determine the density and the growth of villages are nearness to cities, types of farming, and routes of travel and transportation. On the average there was one village in the State for every 26 square miles in 1920, though the average for the suburban counties was one for every 15 square miles.

Period from 1920 to 1925

1. The population of New York State increased 7.5 per cent from 1920 to 1925. The total city population, including New York City, grew less than did the other classes, and the larger cities gained less than did the smaller ones.

2. The marked phenomenon that characterized the shifting of population between 1920 and 1925 was suburbanization. This is shown by the growth of the rural population in all sections, and the gain in all except the mountain, though these were greater in the urban and the suburban counties than in the others. Also, the increase in density of the rural population was greatest in the counties where the urban influences were the most dominant.

3. Two classes of rural population — incorporated-village, and unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village — actually grew between 1920 and 1925, but the farm population in the State as a whole decreased. The unincorporated-village and non-farming-non-village population grew at a high rate in the State as a whole, 41.1 per cent; the greatest growth was in the urban counties, 52.2 per cent, and the least was in the mountain counties, 11.9 per cent.

4. The farm population increased in the suburban counties but declined in all the others, the greatest decline being in the farming counties. Cities seemed to maintain the farm population near them rather than cause its decline.

5. The total population in each class of incorporated villages grew, with no great differences in rate. In the different sections, however, the growth of the various classes varied, the large villages having the greatest percentage growth in the urban and the mountain counties and the minor villages in the suburban counties.

6. Many incorporated villages lost in population between 1920 and 1925; these were predominantly in the farming counties, and belonged to all classes. Likewise the gains of the villages that increased in the farming counties were less than the gains of the villages that increased in the other counties.

Memoir 115, *Some Relations of Green Manures to the Nitrogen of a Soil,* the next preceding number in this series of publications, was mailed on July 6, 1928.